

Fundamental Baseball

Every Position, Every Pitch, Every Play
You Have a Job To Do
Baseball 101

"If you are not fielding the ball, you are covering a base. If you are not covering a base, you are a cut-off man. If you are not a cut-off man or covering a base, you should be moving somewhere to back up."

You always have a job to do!

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No Runners On

Pitcher: Move into back up position between mound and 2B position.

Catcher: Follow the runner to first to back up for over throw.

1B: After seeing the runner touch 1B, cover the bag.

2B: Move into position to cover 2B, receive throw.

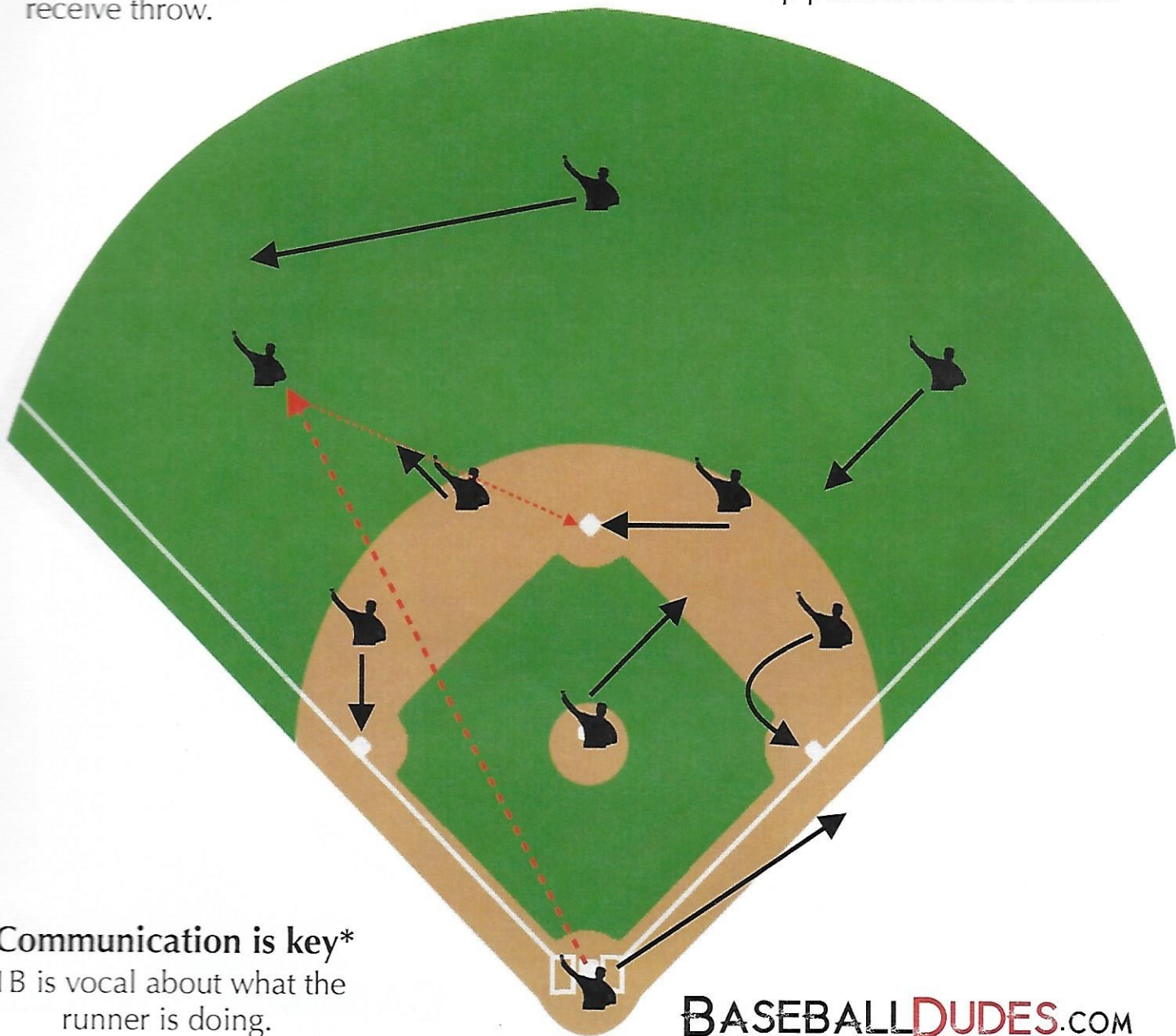
SS: Line up relay for throw from LF.

3B: Stay close to 3B bag.

LF: Make a good, hard, low throw to 2B. Make the throw low enough for the cut-off man to handle.

CF: Back up LF.

RF: Back up position toward infield.



Communication is key
1B is vocal about what the runner is doing.

Situation #2

Single to CF
No Runners On

Pitcher: Move into back up position between mound and 2B.

Catcher: Follow the runner to first to back up for over throw.

1B: After seeing the runner touch 1B, cover the bag.

2B: If the ball is hit to the SS side of 2B, cover the bag. If ball is hit to 2B side of the field, you are the cut off man.

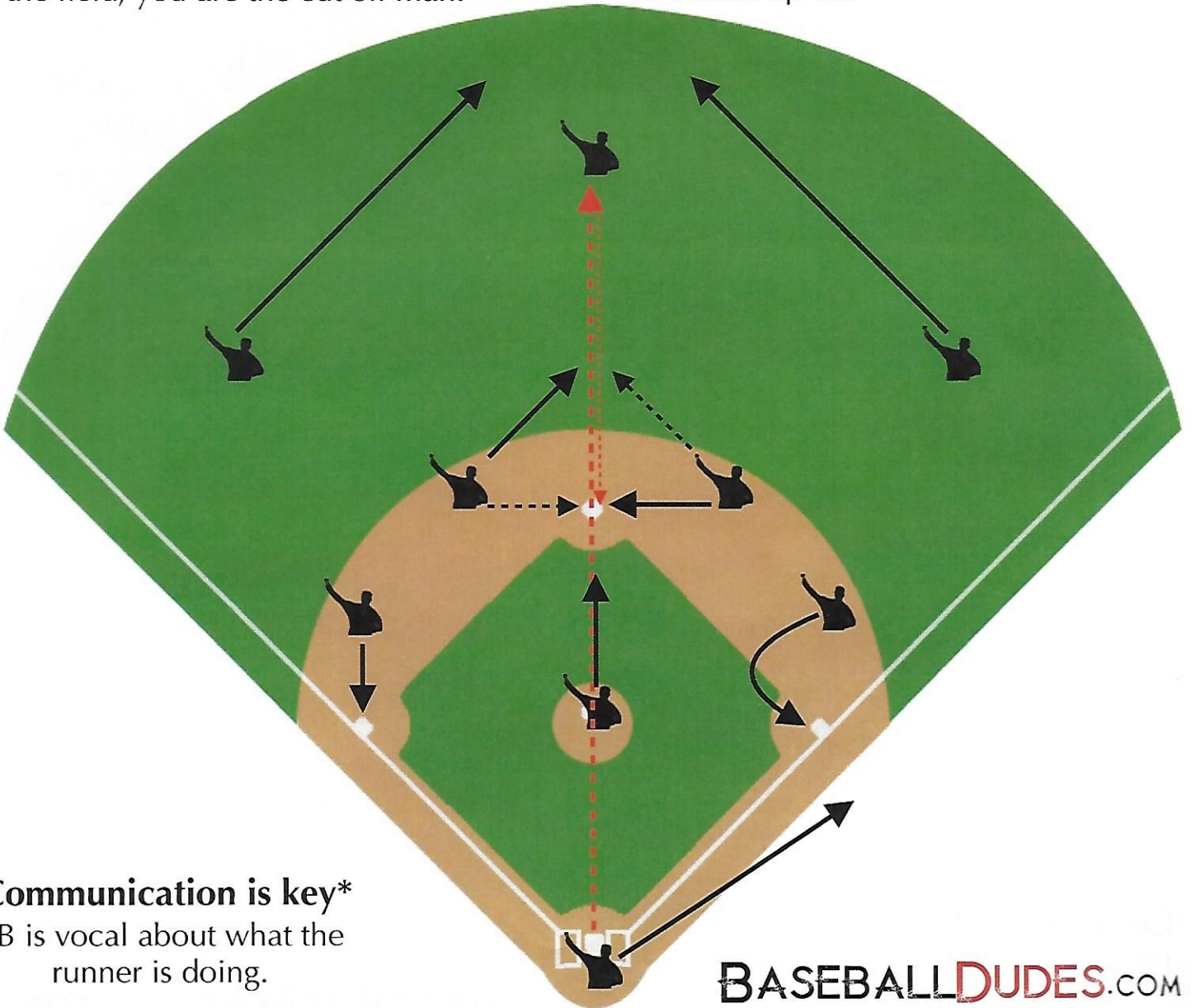
SS: If the ball is hit to the 2B side of 2B, cover the bag. If ball is hit to SS side of the field, you are the cut off man.

3B: Stay close to 3B bag.

LF: Back up CF.

CF: Make a good, hard, low throw to 2B. Make the throw low enough for the cut-off man to handle.

RF: Back up CF.



Communication is key
1B is vocal about what the runner is doing.

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No Runners On

Pitcher: Move into back up position between mound and SS position.

Catcher: Follow the runner to first to back up for over throw.

1B: After seeing the runner touch 1B, cover the bag.

2B: Line up relay for throw from RF.

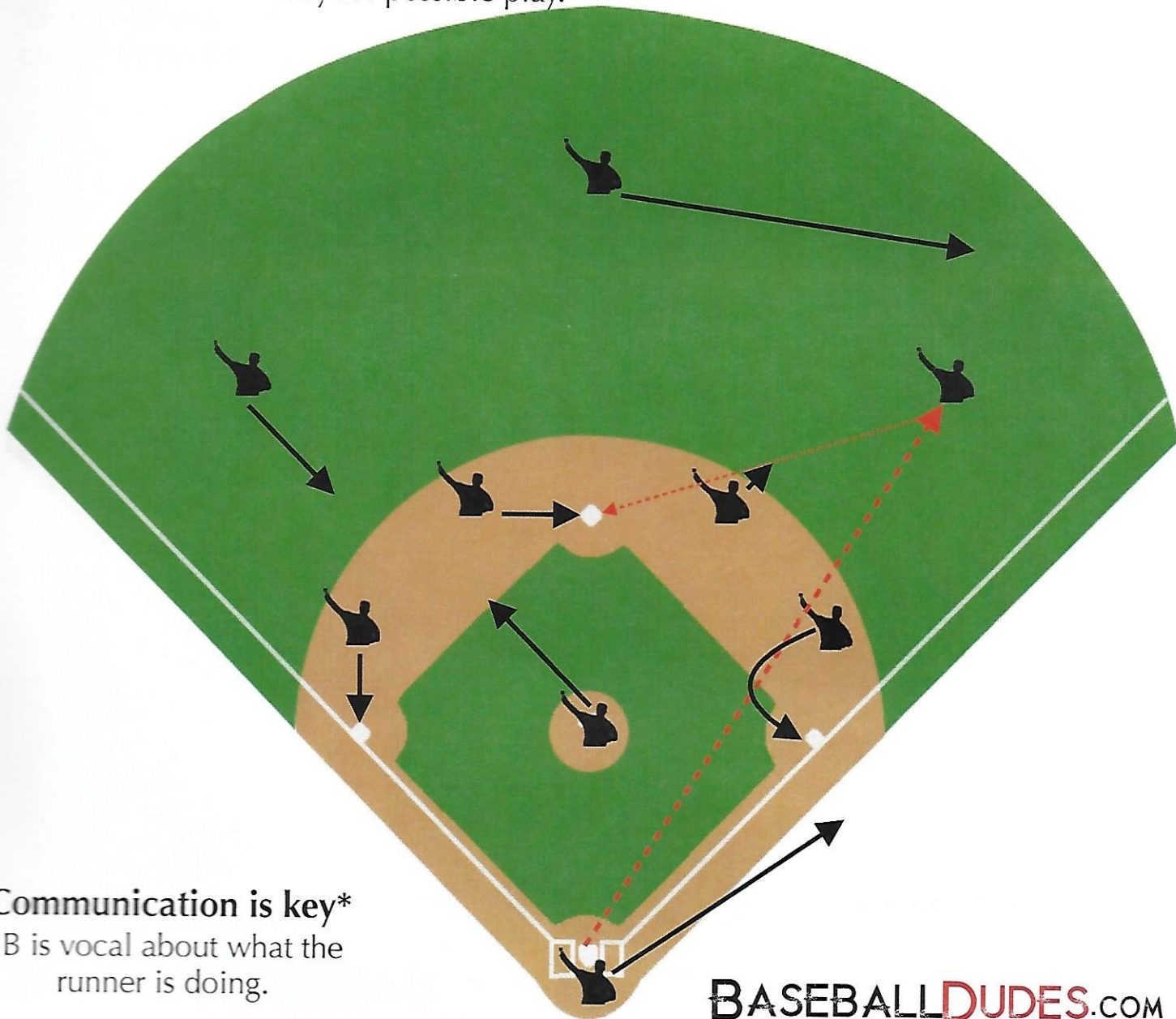
SS: Cover 2B. Be ready for possible play.

3B: Maintain position to possibly back up throw from RF, then Cover 3B.

LF: Move into a possible back up position behind SS position.

CF: Back up RF.

RF: Make a good, hard, low throw to 2B. Make the throw low enough for the cut-off man to handle.



Communication is key
1B is vocal about what the runner is doing.

Situation #4

Single to LF

Runner on 1st

Pitcher: Back up position between 3B and home. Read the play to back up 3B or possibly home plate.

Catcher: Protect home plate.

1B: After seeing the runner touch 1B, cover the bag.

2B: Cover 2B. Be ready for possible throw from cut-off.

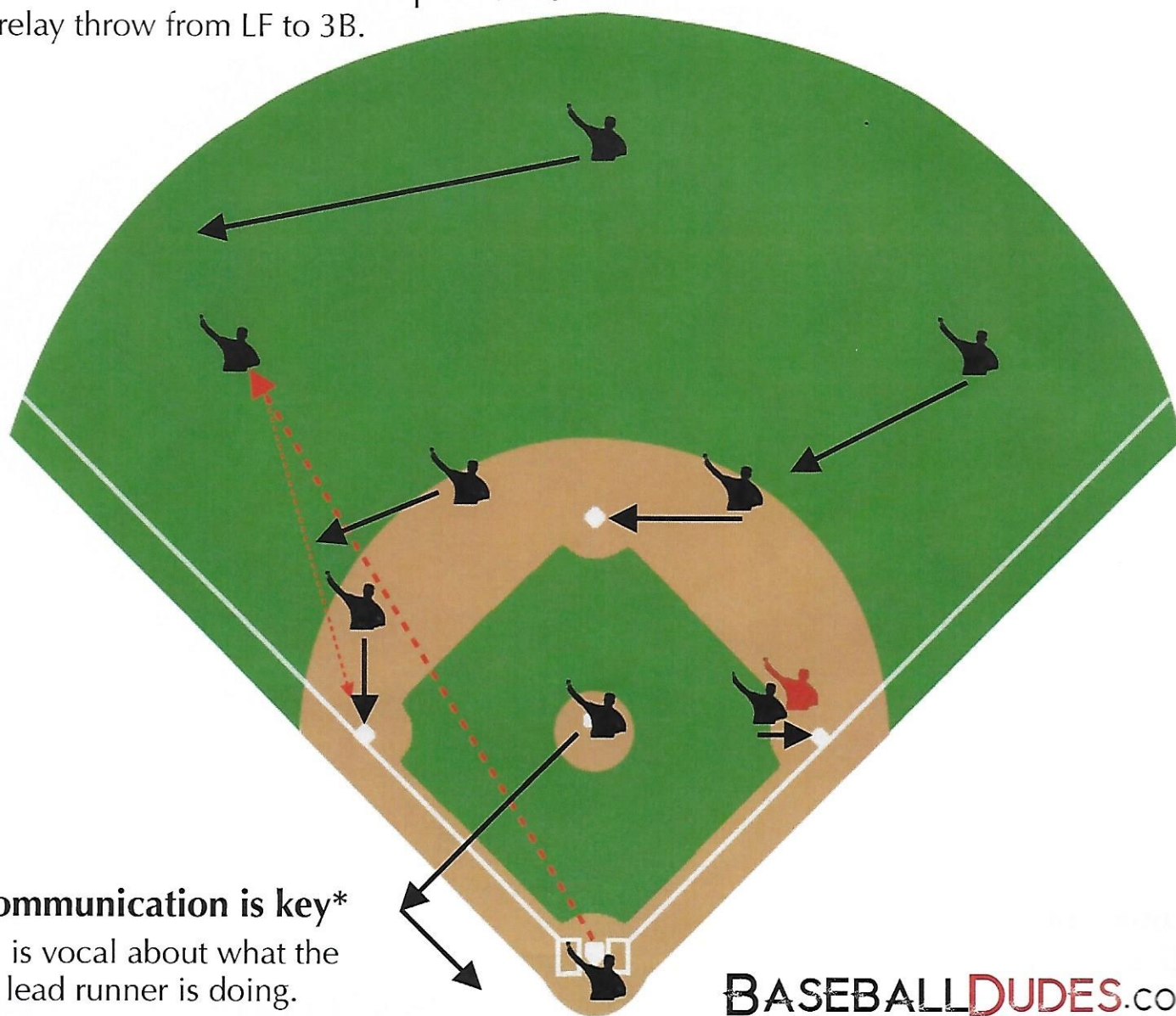
SS: Cut-off man. Move into a position for relay throw from LF to 3B.

3B: Cover 3B. Be ready for possible throw from LF.

LF: Make a good, hard, low throw to 3B. Make the throw low enough for the cut-off man to handle.

CF: Back up LF.

RF: Move to back up position near 2B.



Communication is key

2B is vocal about what the lead runner is doing.

Situation #5

Single to CF

Runner on 1st

Pitcher: Back up position between 3B and home. Read the play to back up 3B or possibly home plate.

Catcher: Protect home plate.

1B: After seeing the runner touch 1B, cover the bag.

2B: Cover 2B. Be ready for possible throw from cut-off.

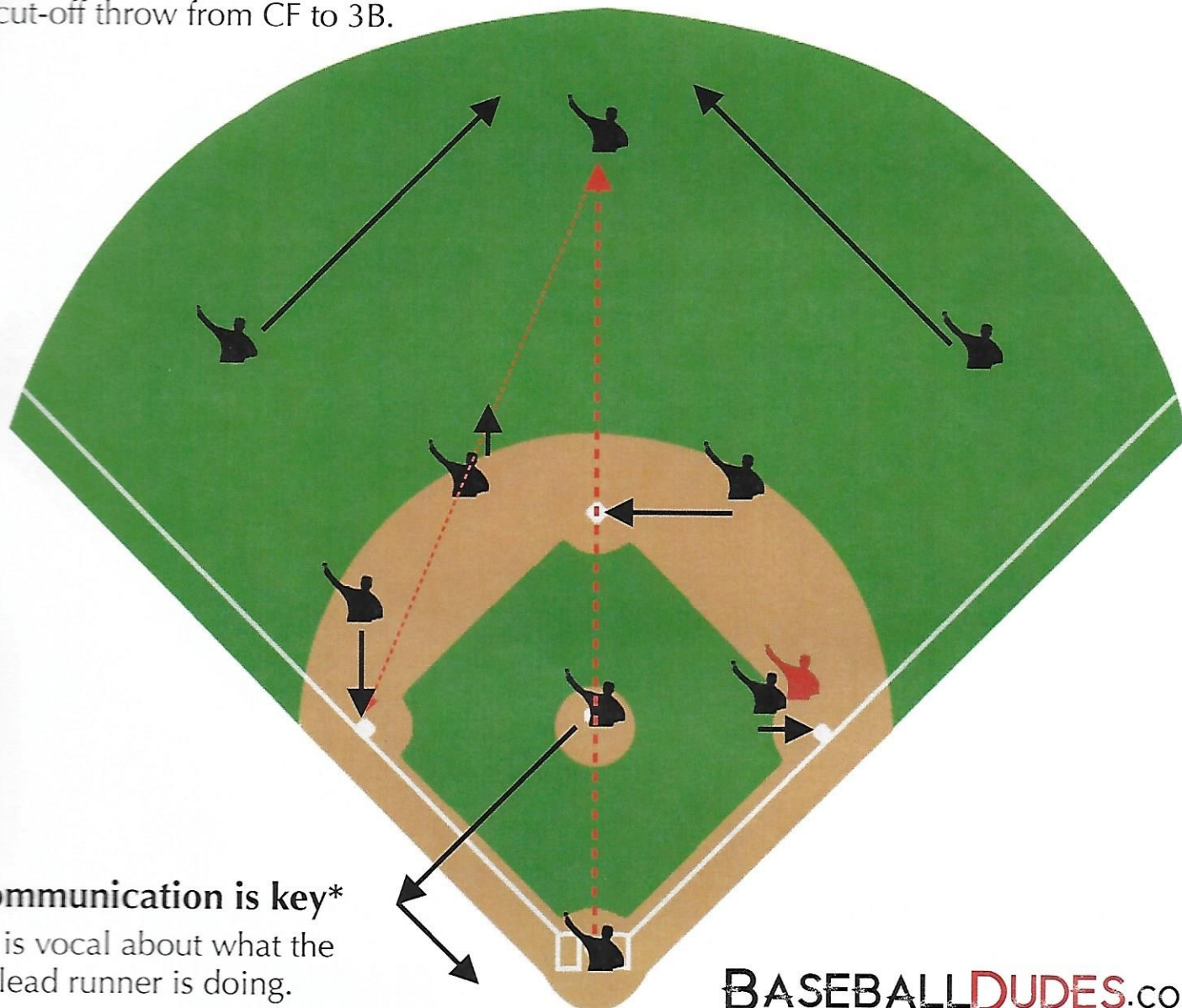
SS: Cut-off man. Move into a position to cut-off throw from CF to 3B.

3B: Cover 3B. If SS cannot recover in time, be ready to throw all the way from CF.

LF: Back up CF.

CF: Make a good, hard, low throw to 3B. Make the throw low enough for the cut-off man to handle.

RF: Back up CF.



Communication is key

2B is vocal about what the lead runner is doing.

Situation #6

Single to RF

Runner on 1st

Pitcher: Back up position between 3B and home. Read the play to back up 3B or possibly home plate.

Catcher: Protect home plate.

1B: After seeing the runner touch 1B, cover the bag.

2B: Cover 2B. Be ready for possible throw from cut-off.

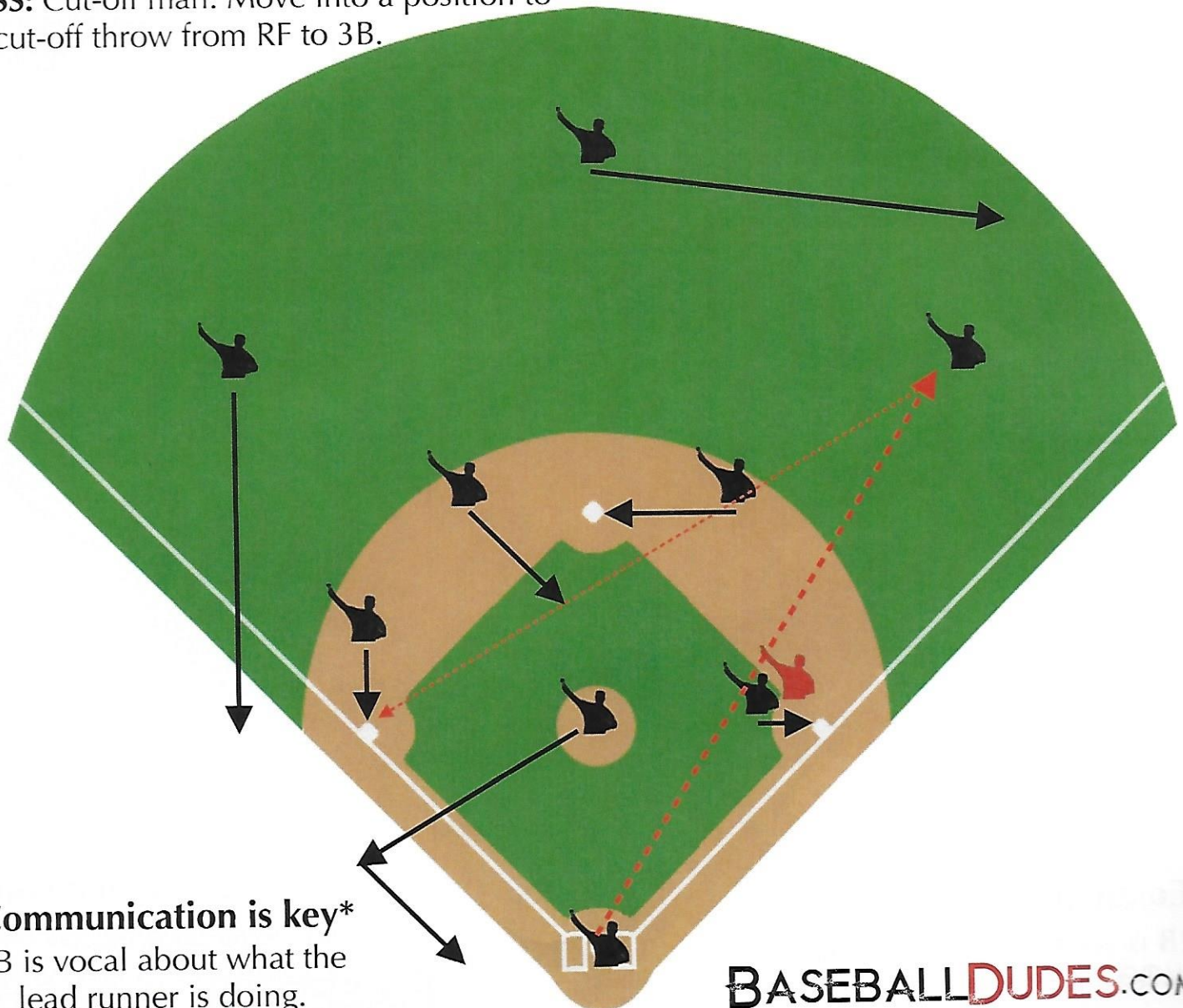
SS: Cut-off man. Move into a position to cut-off throw from RF to 3B.

3B: Cover 3B. Be ready for possible throw from RF/SS.

LF: Move into possible back up position behind 3B.

CF: Back up RF.

RF: Make a good, hard, low throw to 3B. Make the throw low enough for the cut-off man to handle.



Communication is key
2B is vocal about what the lead runner is doing.

Situation #7

Single to LF

Runner on 2nd

Pitcher: Back up home plate by going between home and first.

Catcher: Protect home plate. Be ready for throw. Give the runner a lane.

1B: After seeing the runner touch 1B, cover the bag.

2B: Cover 2B. Be ready for possible throw from cut-off.

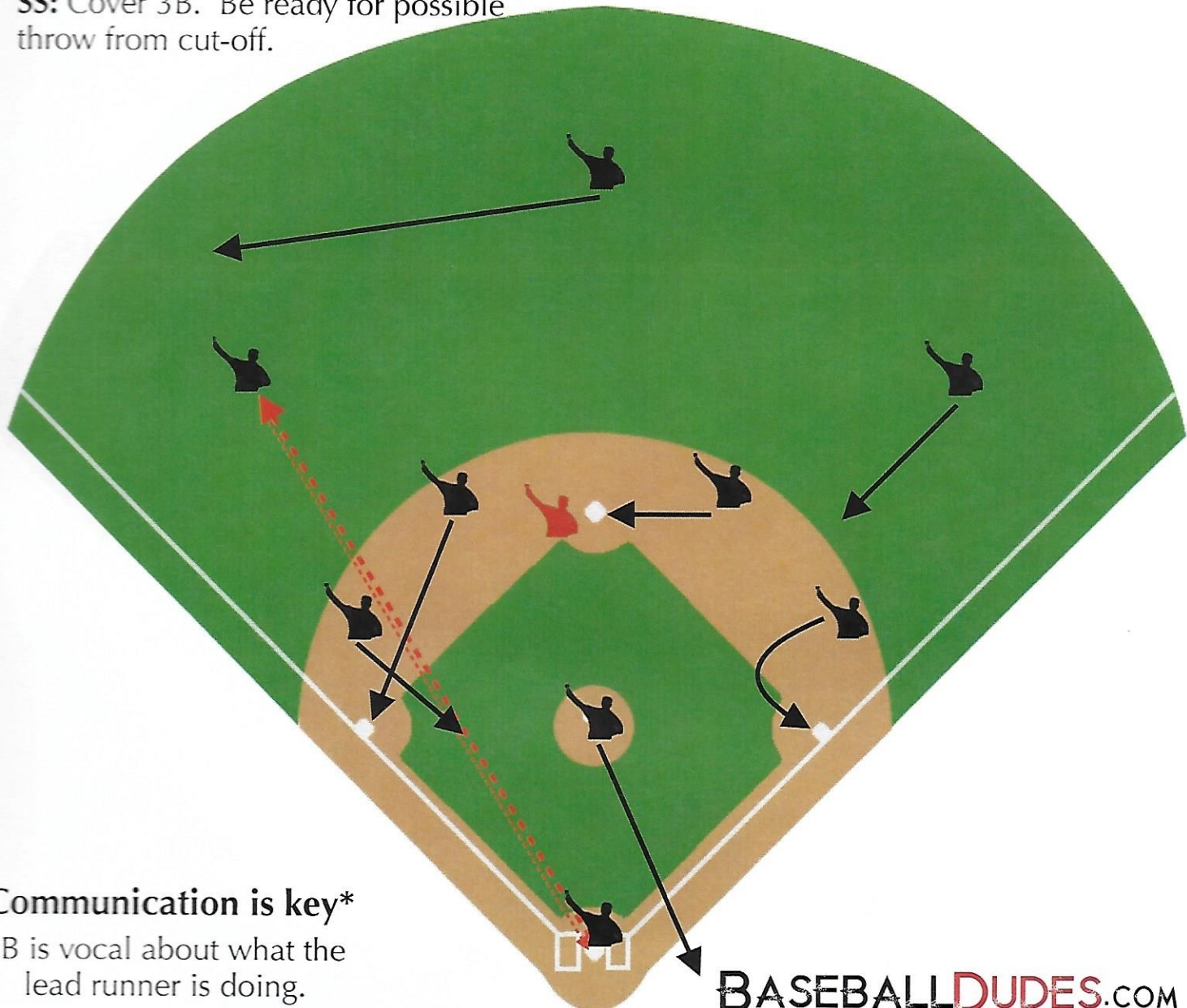
SS: Cover 3B. Be ready for possible throw from cut-off.

3B: Become primary cut-off man. Move between the mound and 3B.

LF: Make a good, hard, low throw through the cut-off man.

CF: Back up LF.

RF: Move towards the infield for possible back up.



Situation #8

Single to CF

Runner on 2nd

Pitcher: Back up home plate by going between home and first.

Catcher: Protect home plate. Be ready for throw. Give the runner a lane.

1B: Become the primary cut-off man positioned between the mound and 2B.

2B: Cover 1B. Be ready for possible throw from cut-off.

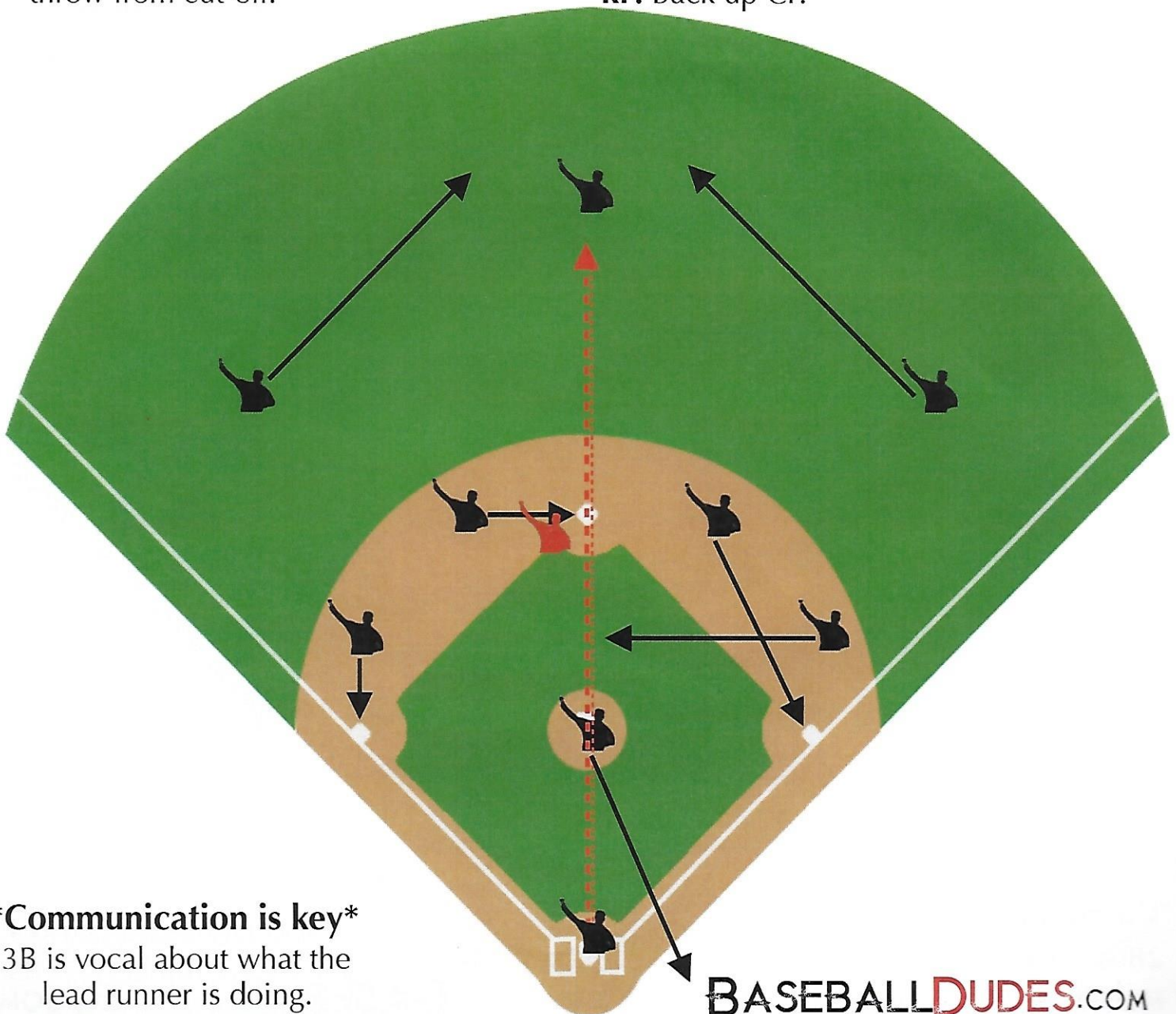
SS: Cover 2B. Be ready for possible throw from cut-off.

3B: Cover 3B. Be ready for possible throw from cut-off man.

LF: Back up CF.

CF: Make a good, hard, low throw through the cut-off man.

RF: Back up CF.



Communication is key

3B is vocal about what the lead runner is doing.

Runner on 2nd

Pitcher: Back up home plate by going between home and third.

Catcher: Protect home plate. Be ready for throw. Give the runner a lane.

1B: Become primary cut-off man between mound and 1B.

2B: Cover 1B. Be ready for possible throw from cut-off.

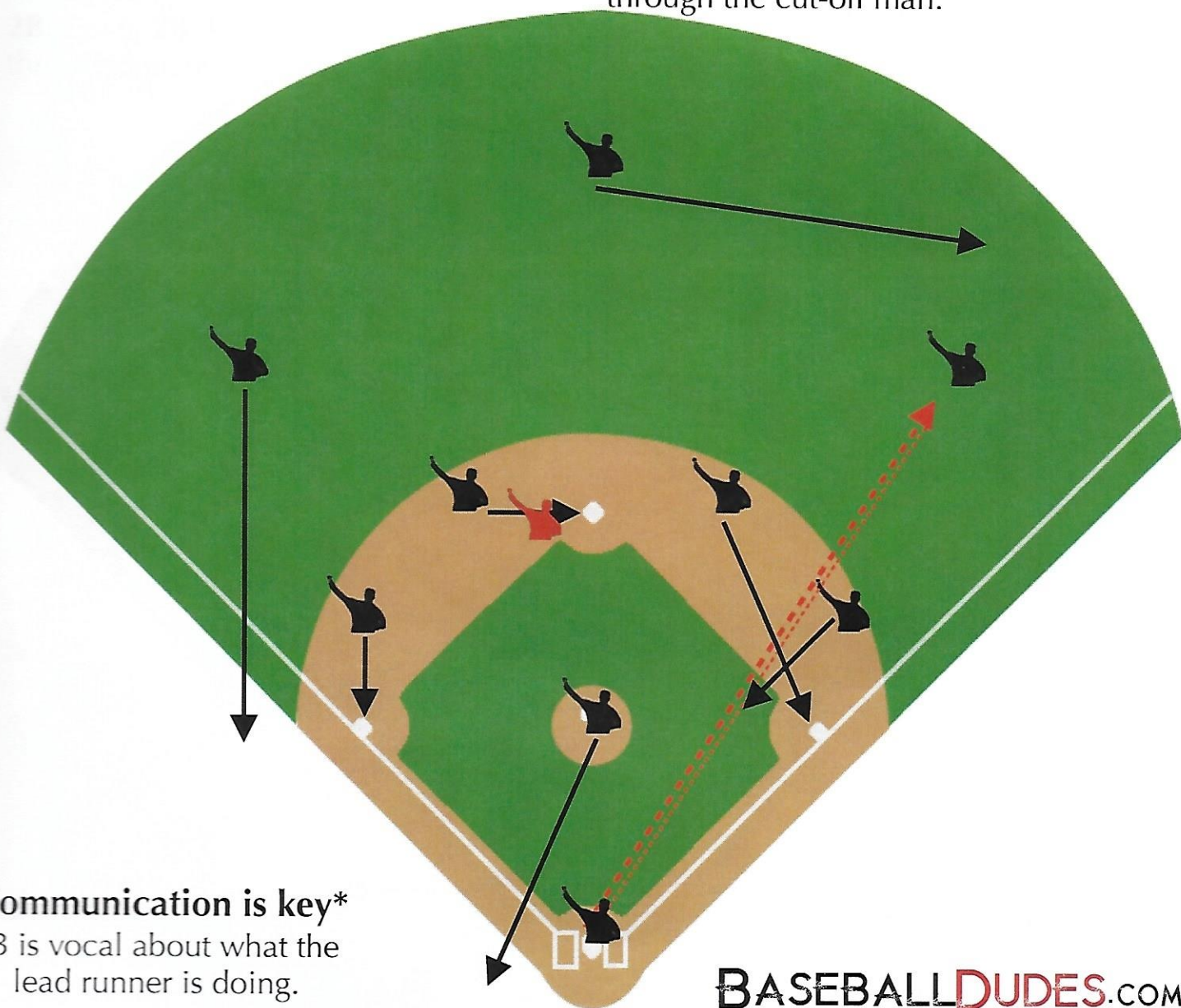
SS: Cover 2B. Be ready for possible throw from cut-off.

3B: Cover 3B. Be ready for possible throw from cut-off.

LF: Move into back up position behind 3B.

CF: Back up RF.

RF: Make a good, hard, low throw through the cut-off man.



Communication is key
3B is vocal about what the lead runner is doing.

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Situation #10

Single to LF

Runners on 2nd, or 1st and 2nd, or Bases Loaded

Pitcher: Back up home plate by going between home and first.

Catcher: Protect home plate. Be ready for throw. Give the runner a lane.

1B: After seeing the runner touch the bag, cover the bag.

2B: Cover 2B. Be ready for possible throw from cut-off.

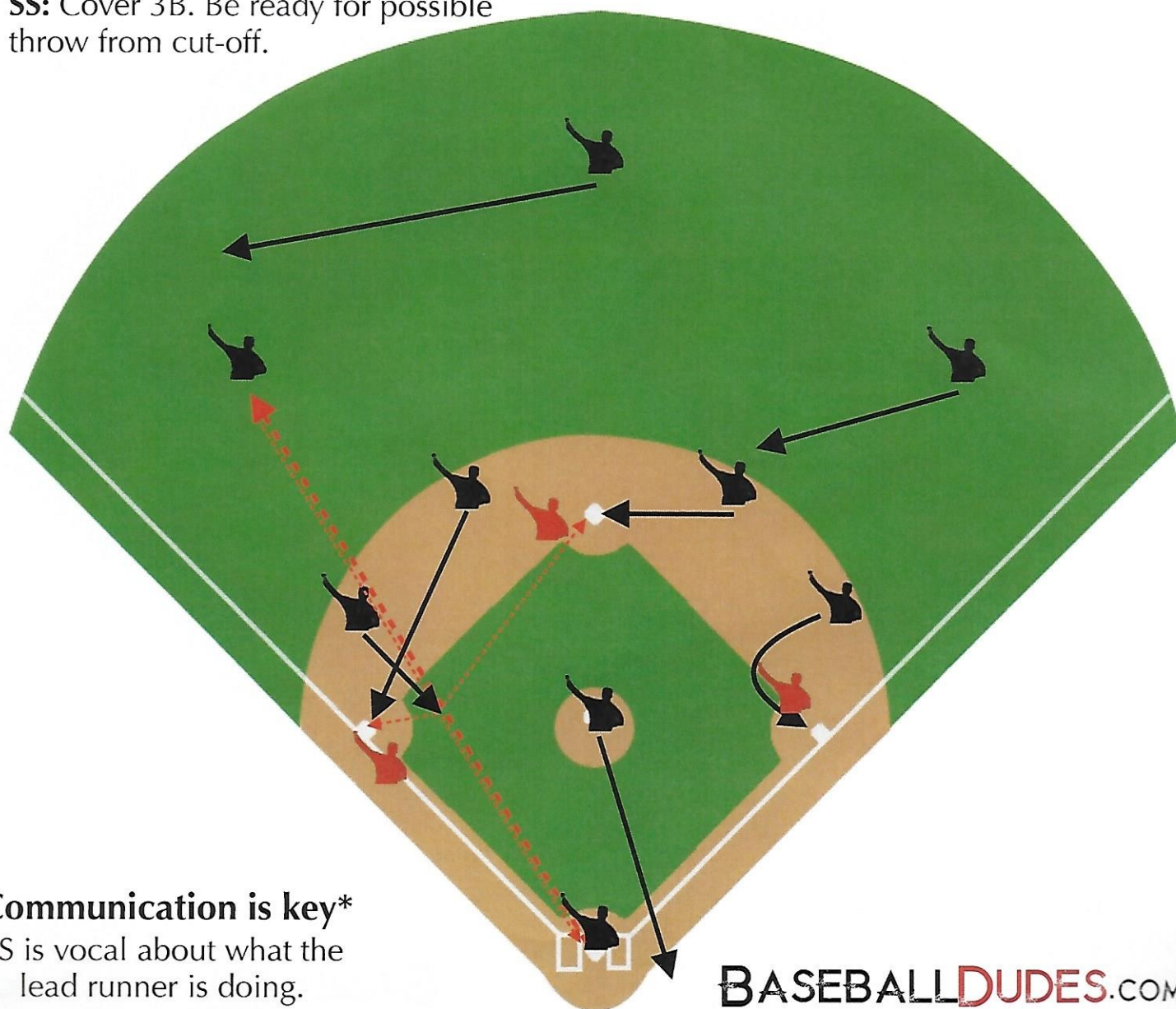
SS: Cover 3B. Be ready for possible throw from cut-off.

3B: Cut-off man. Move into position for throw from LF between mound and third.

LF: Make a good, hard, low throw through the cut-off man.

CF: Back up LF.

RF: Move into possible back up position towards 2B.



Communication is key

SS is vocal about what the lead runner is doing.

Situation #11

Single to CF

Runners on 1st and 2nd

Pitcher: Move to back up either 3B or home. Move towards a spot between and then read the throw to dictate where you go.

Catcher: Protect home plate. Be ready for throw. Give the runner a lane.

1B: Cut-off man. Move into a position between the mound and 2B to cut off throw from CF.

2B: Cover 2B. Be ready for possible throw from cut-off.

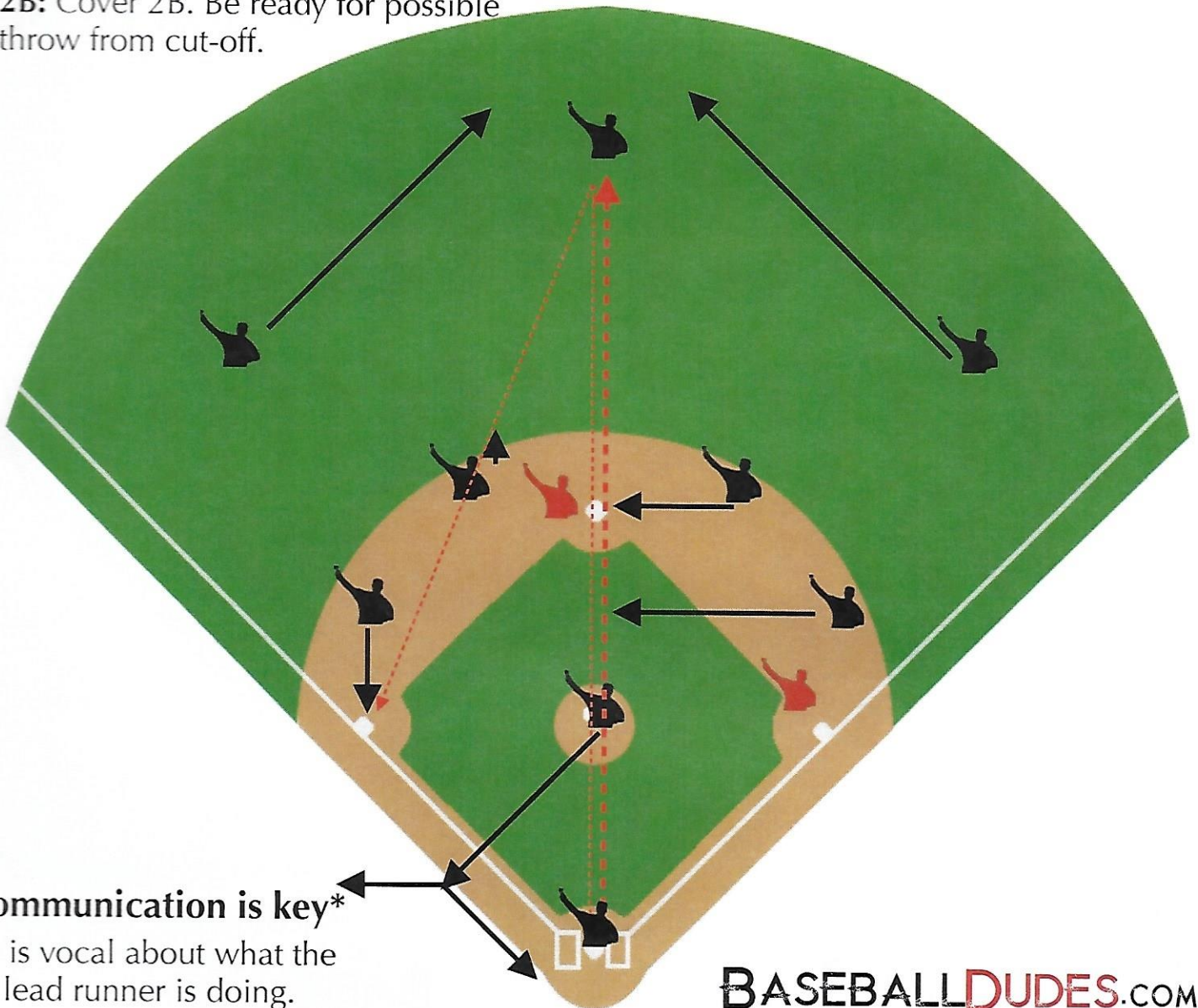
SS: Possible cut-off man. Move into position to cut off throw from CF to 3B.

3B: Cover 3B. Be ready for possible throw.

LF: Back up CF.

CF: Make a good, hard, low throw toward either home or 3B.

RF: Back up CF.



Communication is key

3B is vocal about what the lead runner is doing.

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Situation #12

Single to RF

Runners on 1st and 2nd

Pitcher: Move to back up either 3B or home. Move towards a spot between and then read the throw to dictate where you go.

Catcher: Protect home plate. Be ready for throw. Give the runner a lane.

1B: Possible cut-off man. Move into a position between the mound and 1B to cut off throw from RF. If throw goes to 3B, cover 1B.

2B: Cover 2B. Be ready for possible throw from cut-off.

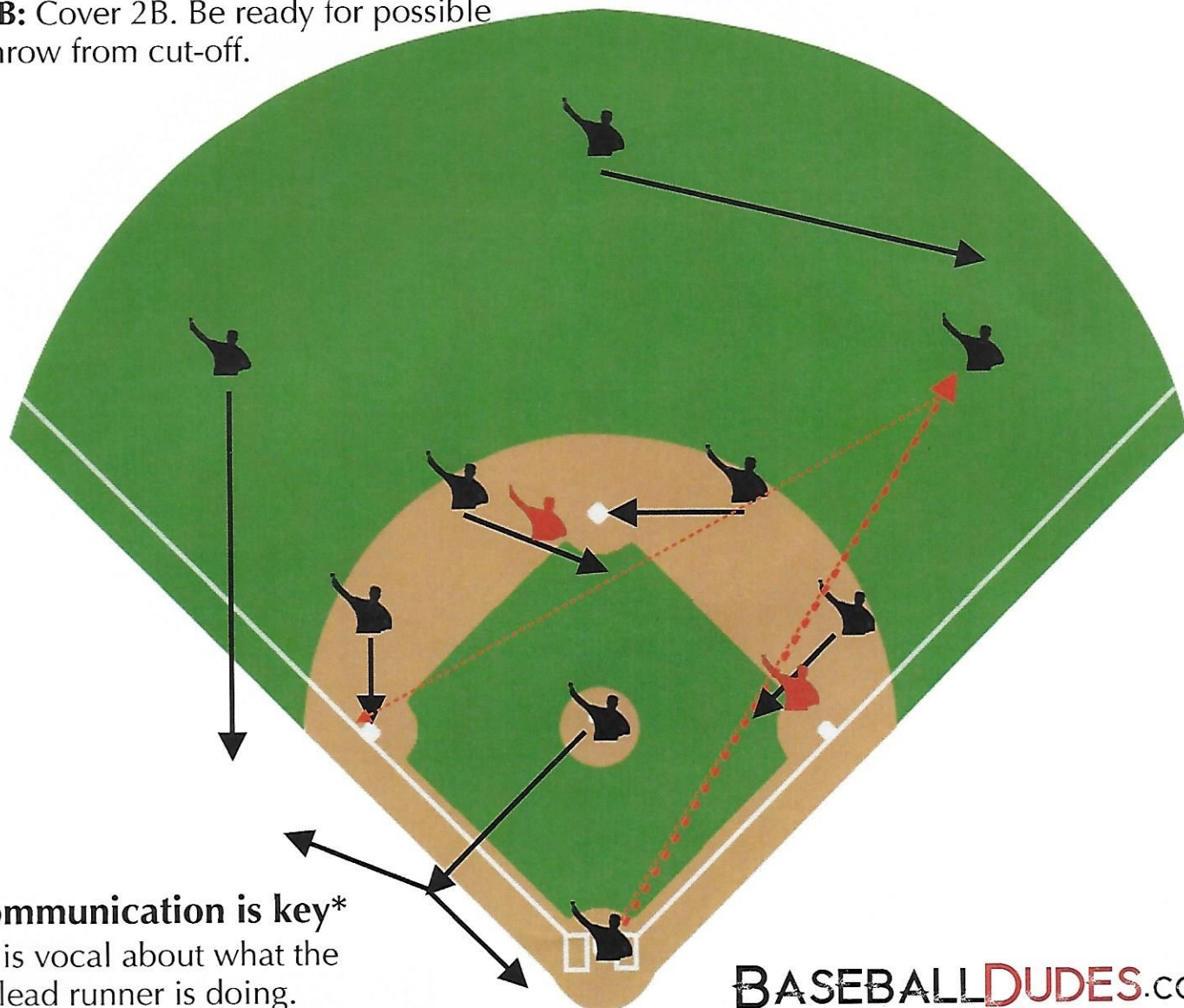
SS: Possible cut-off man. Move into a position to cut off throw from RF to 3B.

3B: Cover 3B, be ready for throw.

LF: Move into possible back up position behind 3B.

CF: Back up RF.

RF: Make a good, hard, low throw toward either home or 3B. *Always keep the tying, or winning run, from going to 3B with less than 2 outs.



Communication is key
3B is vocal about what the
lead runner is doing.

Situation #13

Hit Down the LF Line

No Runners On

Pitcher: Move into a position to back up 3B.

Catcher: Protect home plate. Be ready for throw. Give the runner a lane.

1B: Watch the runner touch 1B, then trail the runner to 2B. If second baseman vacates 2B, you cover 2B.

2B: Cover 2B. Read the play, if the ball gets by the LF to the wall, move into a trailer cut-off position.

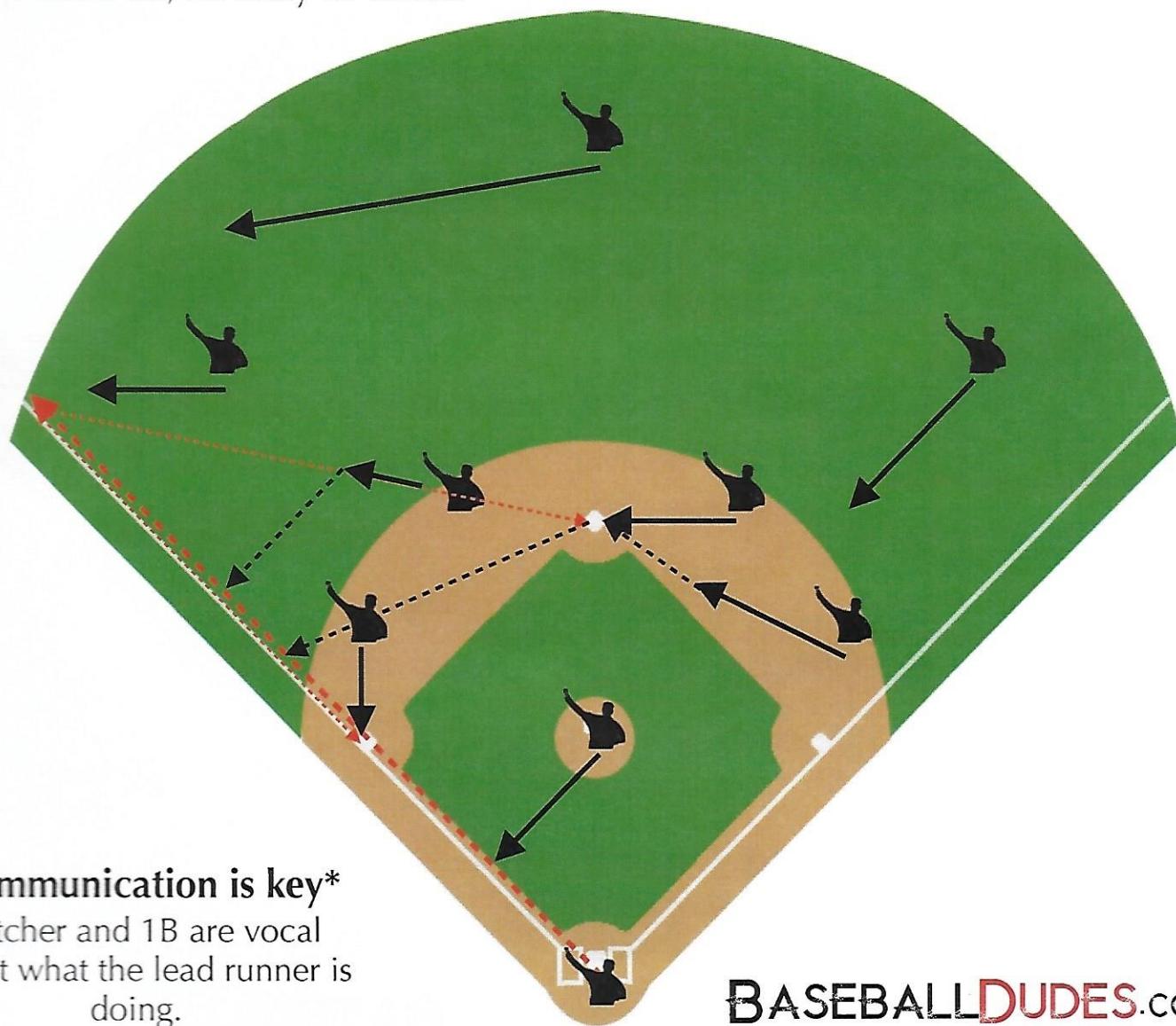
3B: Cover 3B, be ready for throw.

SS: Read the ball and adjust your cut-off position. Move into a line with 2B or 3B for the relay throw. Stay in fair territory if lined up to 3B.

LF: Make a good, hard, low throw through SS who is cut-off man.

CF: Back up LF.

RF: Move into back up position behind 2B.



Communication is key

Catcher and 1B are vocal about what the lead runner is doing.

Situation #14

Hit to Left-Center Field

No Runners On

Pitcher: Move into a position to back up 3B.

Catcher: Protect home plate. Be ready for throw. Give the runner a lane.

1B: Watch the runner touch 1B, then trail the runner to 2B. Be ready for throw if the runner rounds too far.

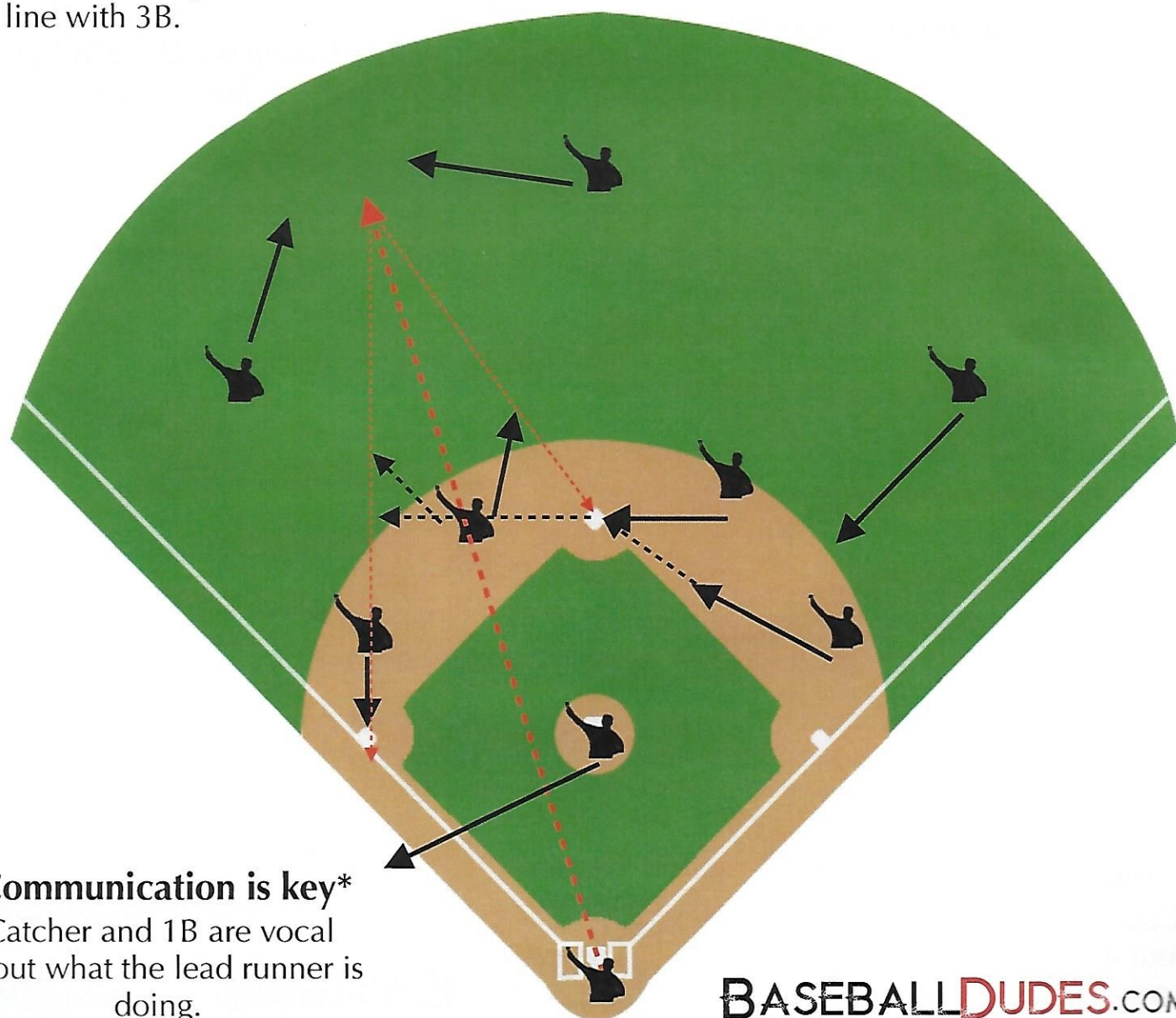
2B: Cover 2B, then watch for the ball to pass the outfielders and move into a trailer cut-off position behind the SS in line with 3B.

SS: Read the ball, line up for a throw to 2B if the ball is cut off. Line up with 3B if the ball gets to the wall. Make a good hard, low throw to 3B.

3B: Cover 3B, be ready for throw.

LF or CF: Make a good, hard, low throw through your cut-off man.

RF: Move into back up position towards the infield.



Situation #15

Hit to Right-Center Field

No Runners On

Pitcher: Move into a position to back up 3B.

Catcher: Protect home plate. Be ready for throw. Give the runner a lane.

1B: Watch the runner touch 1B, then trail the runner to 2B. Be ready for throw if the runner rounds too far.

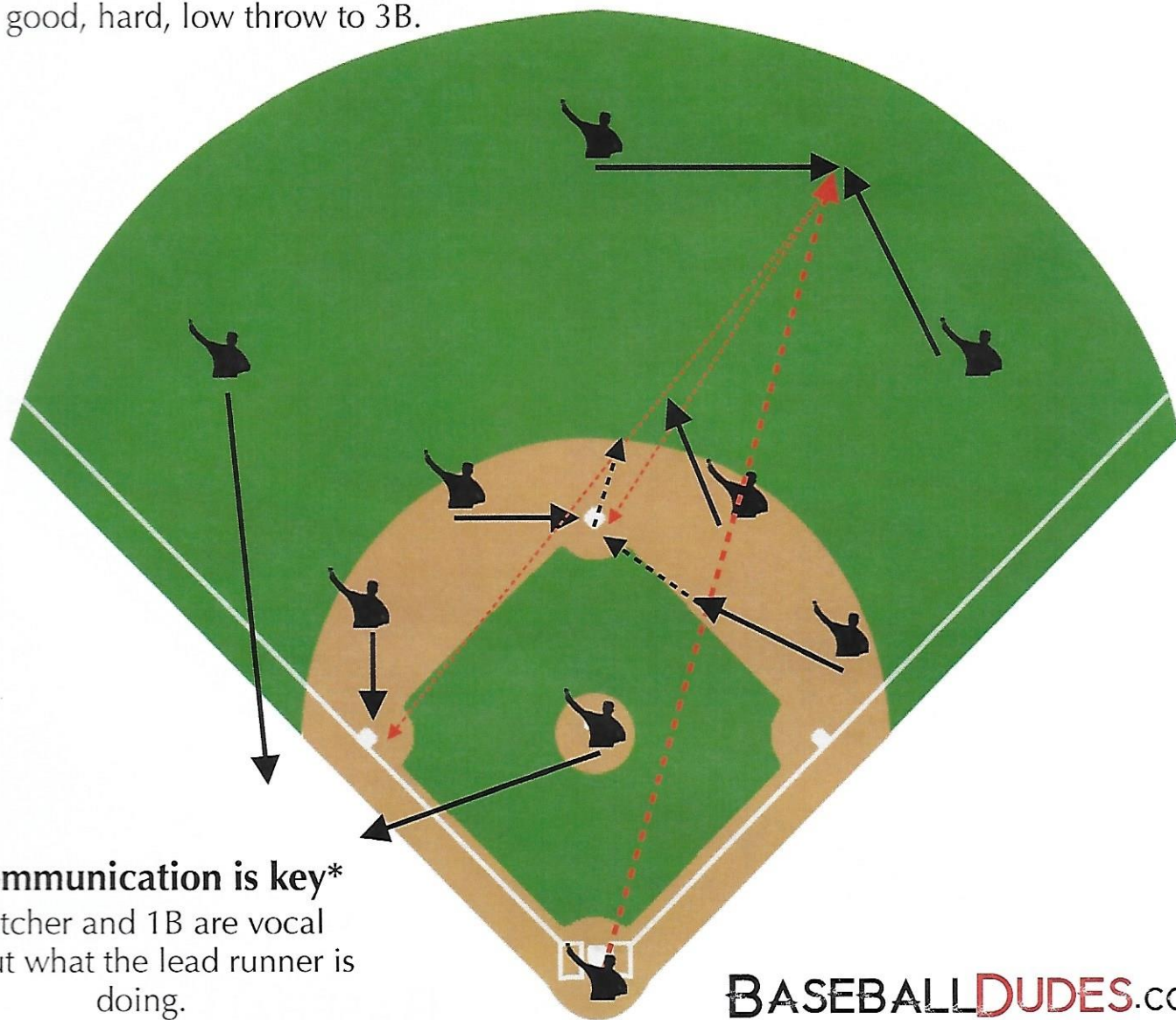
2B: Read the ball, line for a throw to 2B. Move to a relay position if the ball gets to the wall. Do not go out too far. Make the OF extend his throw and then make a good, hard, low throw to 3B.

SS: Cover 2B, then watch for ball to pass outfielders and move into trailer cut-off position behind second baseman in line with 3B.

3B: Cover 3B, be ready for throw.

RF or CF: Make a good, hard, low throw through your cut-off man.

LF: Move into back up position behind 3B.



Situation #16

Hit down RF Line

No Runners On

Pitcher: Move into a position to back up 3B.

Catcher: Protect home plate.

1B: Become trailer to relay man. 20-30 feet back. Be sure to stay out of runners line.

2B: Read the play to determine your positioning. If the ball is cut off by the RF, then line up to 2B. If the ball goes to the wall, line up for relay to 3B.

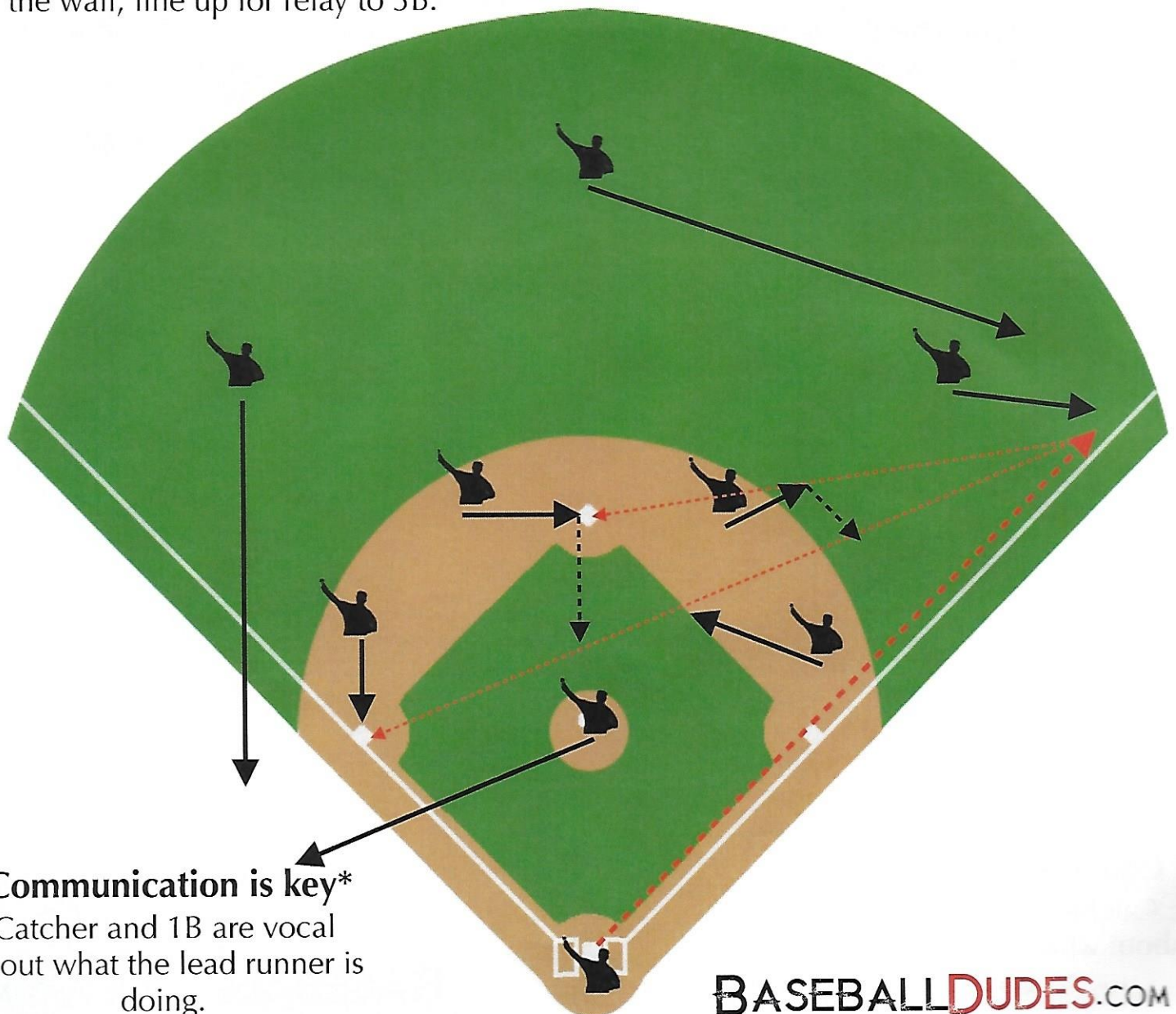
SS: Read the play to see for possible play at 2B. If no play at 2B, wait until the ball gets past RF and become second cut-off man to 3B.

3B: Cover 3B, be ready for throw.

RF: Make a good, hard, low throw through your cut-off man.

CF: Back up RF.

LF: Back up 3B.



Situation #17

Hit Down LF Line

Runner on 1st

Pitcher: Move into a position to back up home plate.

Catcher: Protect home plate. Be ready for throw. Give the runner a lane.

1B: Become cut-off man between 3B and home.

2B: Read the play. Look for the play at 2B. Become trailer to SS if the ball gets by the LF.

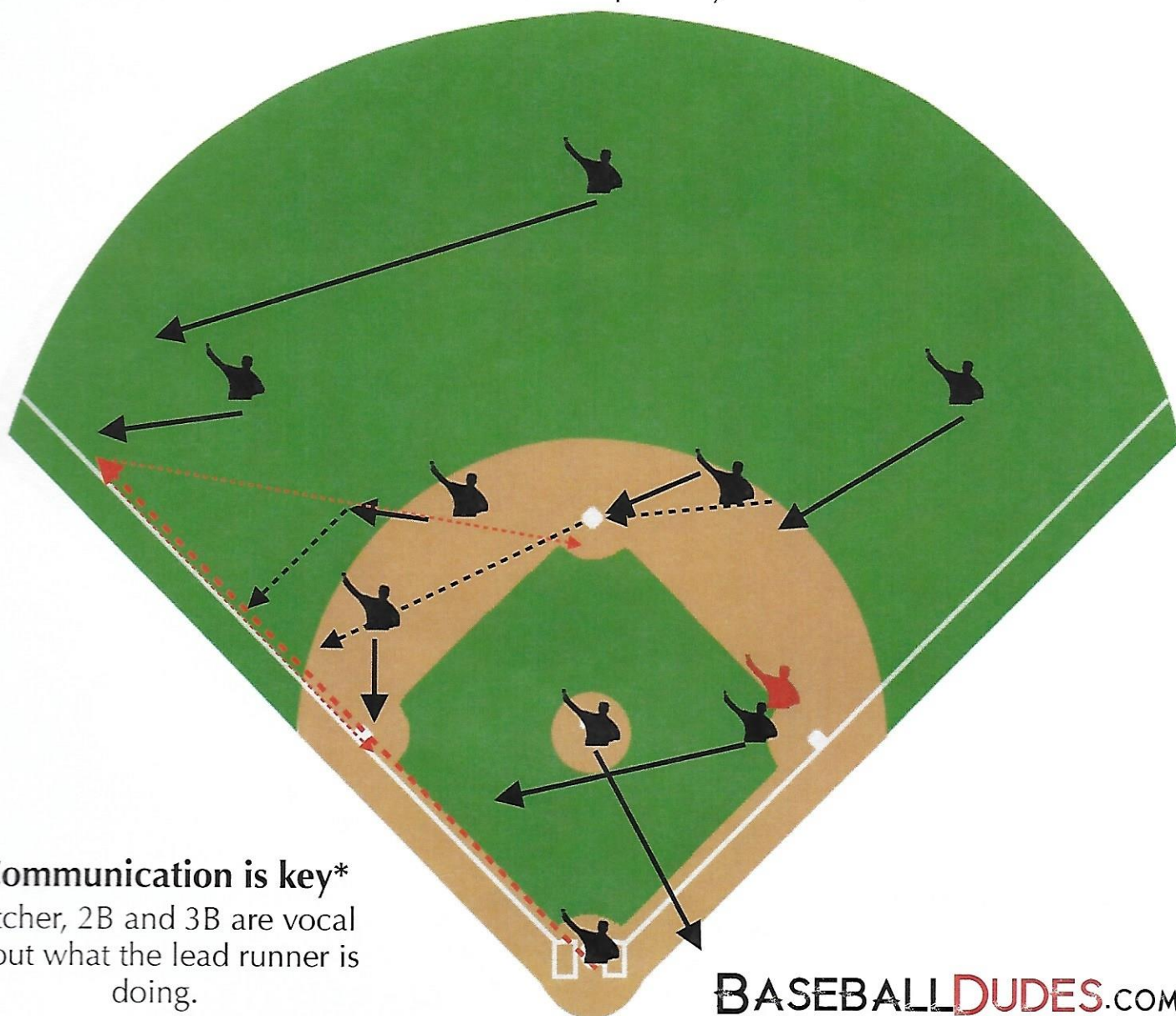
SS: Begin lining up as the cut-off man to 2B. Hold that position until you are sure it's a double and then line up to home.

3B: Possible cut-off man to home. Be ready to cover play at 3B too.

LF: Make a good, hard, low throw through your cut-off man.

CF: Move to back up LF.

RF: Move into position to back up or possibly cover 2B.



Situation #18

Hit to Left-Center Field
Runner on 1st

Pitcher: Move into a position between 3B and home. Read the play to determine where you will back up.

Catcher: Protect home plate. Be ready for throw. Give the runner a lane.

1B: Become cut-off man between 3B and home if needed.

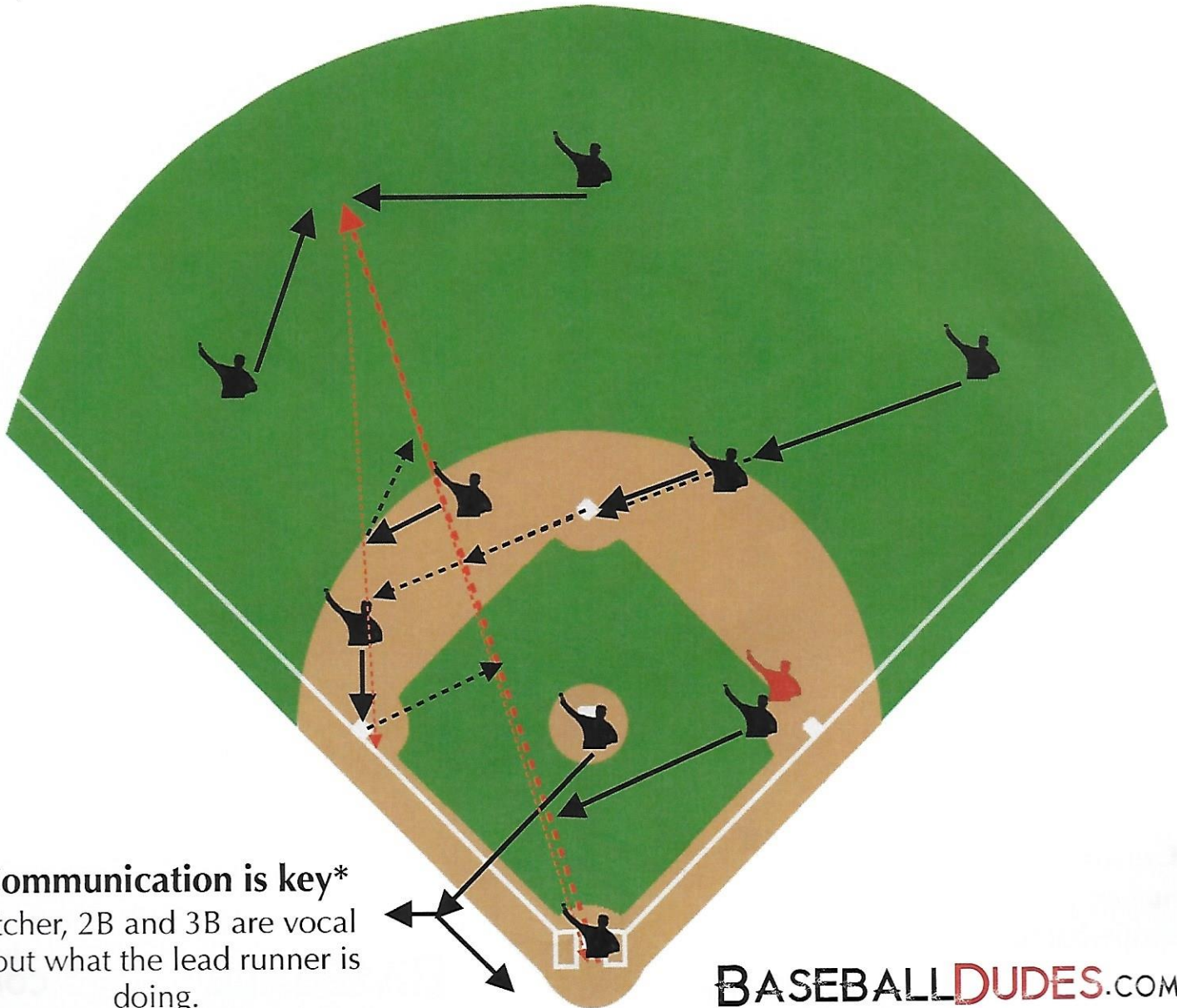
2B: Read the play. Look for the play at 2B. Become trailer to SS if the ball gets by the OF.

SS: Move into relay position inline with 3B. If the ball gets by the OF, then line up to home. Make a good hard throw to 3B or to home.

3B: Cover 3B but be ready to become cut-off to home if needed

LF or CF: Make a good, hard, low throw to your cut-off man.

RF: Move into position to possibly cover 2B.



Communication is key

Catcher, 2B and 3B are vocal about what the lead runner is doing.

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Situation #20

Hit Down Right Field Line
Runner on 1st

Pitcher: Move into a position between 3B and home. Read the play to determine where you will back up.

Catcher: Protect home plate. Be ready for throw. Give the runner a lane.

1B: Become a deep secondary trailer.

2B: Begin lining up as the cut-off man to 2B. Hold that position until you see it's a sure double and then line up as a relay man to home. Stay in fair territory.

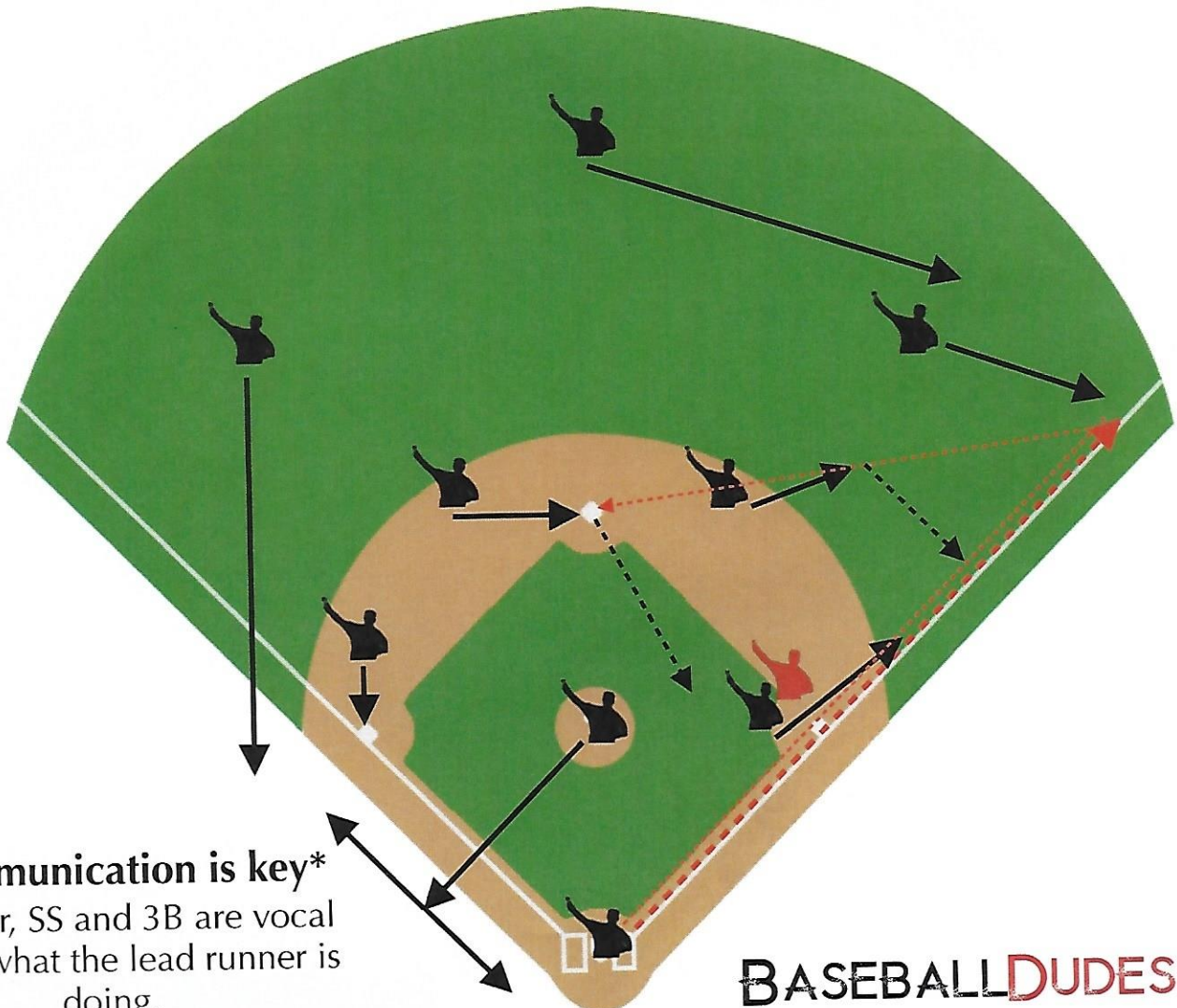
SS: Head towards the middle of the diamond and read the play. If the play is at 2B, you must cover. If it is a sure double, and there is a possible play at home, head towards the 1B line for an errant throw.

3B: Cover 3B, be ready for throw.

LF: Back up 3B.

CF: Back up RF.

RF: Make a good, hard, low throw through your cut-off man. If throwing to 2B, get it there as quickly as possible to beat runner trying to score.



Communication is key

Catcher, SS and 3B are vocal about what the lead runner is doing.

Situation #21

Pop-Up Down Left Field Line

Less Than 2 Outs, Runners on 1st and 3rd

Pitcher: Move to cut-off position near 3B. Be sure to stay out of runners lane. You are here to keep the runner from scoring and to keep the runner on 1B from possibly advancing to 2B on the throw in.

Catcher: Protect home plate. Be ready for throw. Give the runner a lane.

1B: Cover 1B.

2B: Cover 2B.

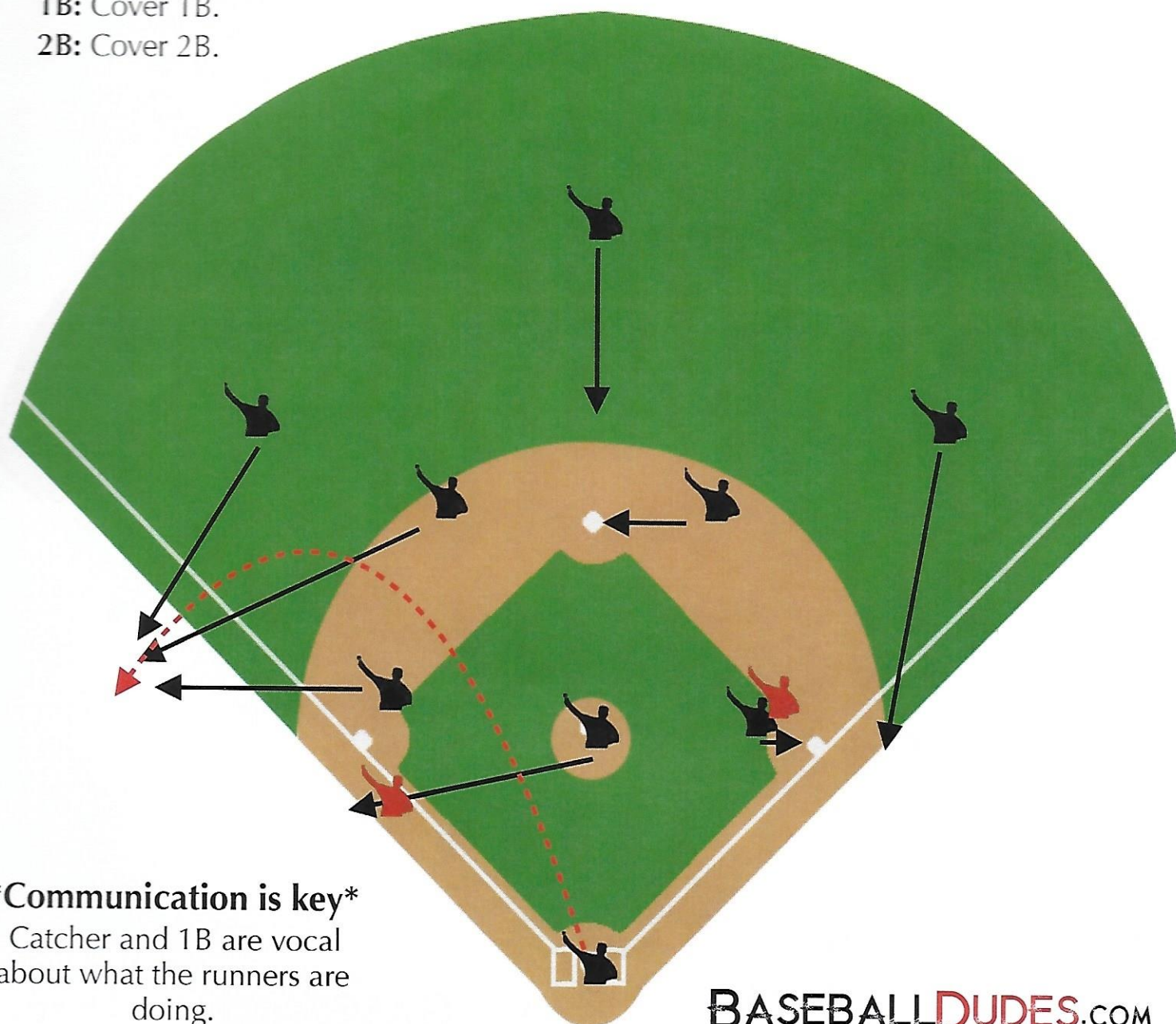
SS: Go after the ball and try to catch it.

3B: Go after the ball and try to catch it.

LF: Try to catch the ball and assist with communication.

CF: Back up 2B.

RF: Back up 1B.



Communication is key

Catcher and 1B are vocal about what the runners are doing.

Situation #22

Pop-Up Down Right Field Line

Less Than 2 Outs, Runners on 1st and 3rd

Pitcher: Become cut-off man near 1B. Stay out of the runners line.

Catcher: Protect home plate. Be ready for throw. Give the runner a lane.

1B: Go after the ball and try to catch it.

2B: Go after the ball and try to catch it.

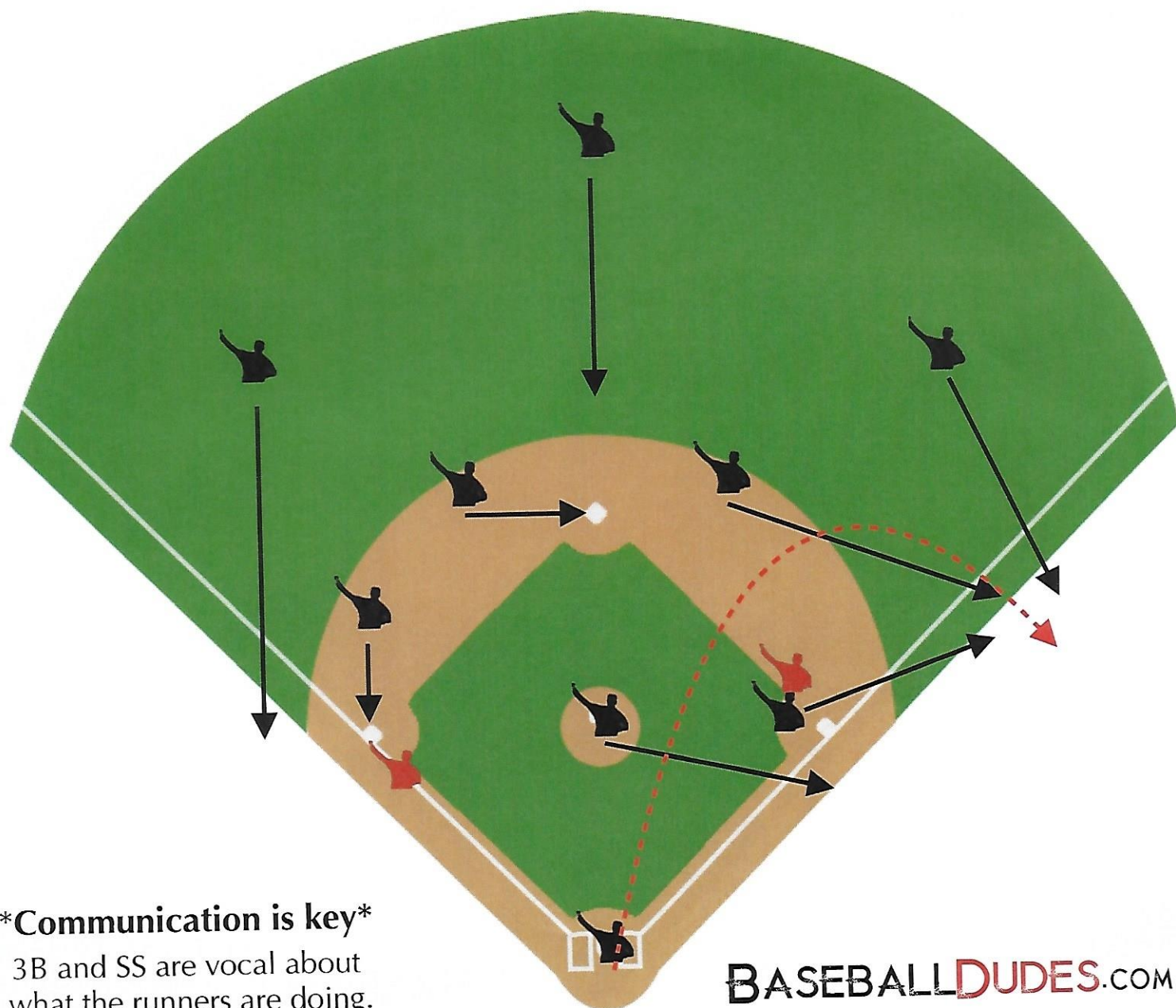
SS: Cover 2B to keep the runner from advancing from 1B.

3B: Cover 3B.

LF: Back up 3B.

CF: Back up 2B.

RF: Try to catch the ball and assist with communication.



Communication is key

3B and SS are vocal about what the runners are doing.

Situation #23

Foul Pop-Up Behind Home (3B Side) Less Than 2 Outs, Runners on 1st and 3rd

Pitcher: Cover home plate.

Catcher: After catching the pop-up, be prepared to make a good hard throw to a middle infielder.

1B: Cover 1B.

2B: Cover 2B if the ball is on the 3B side.

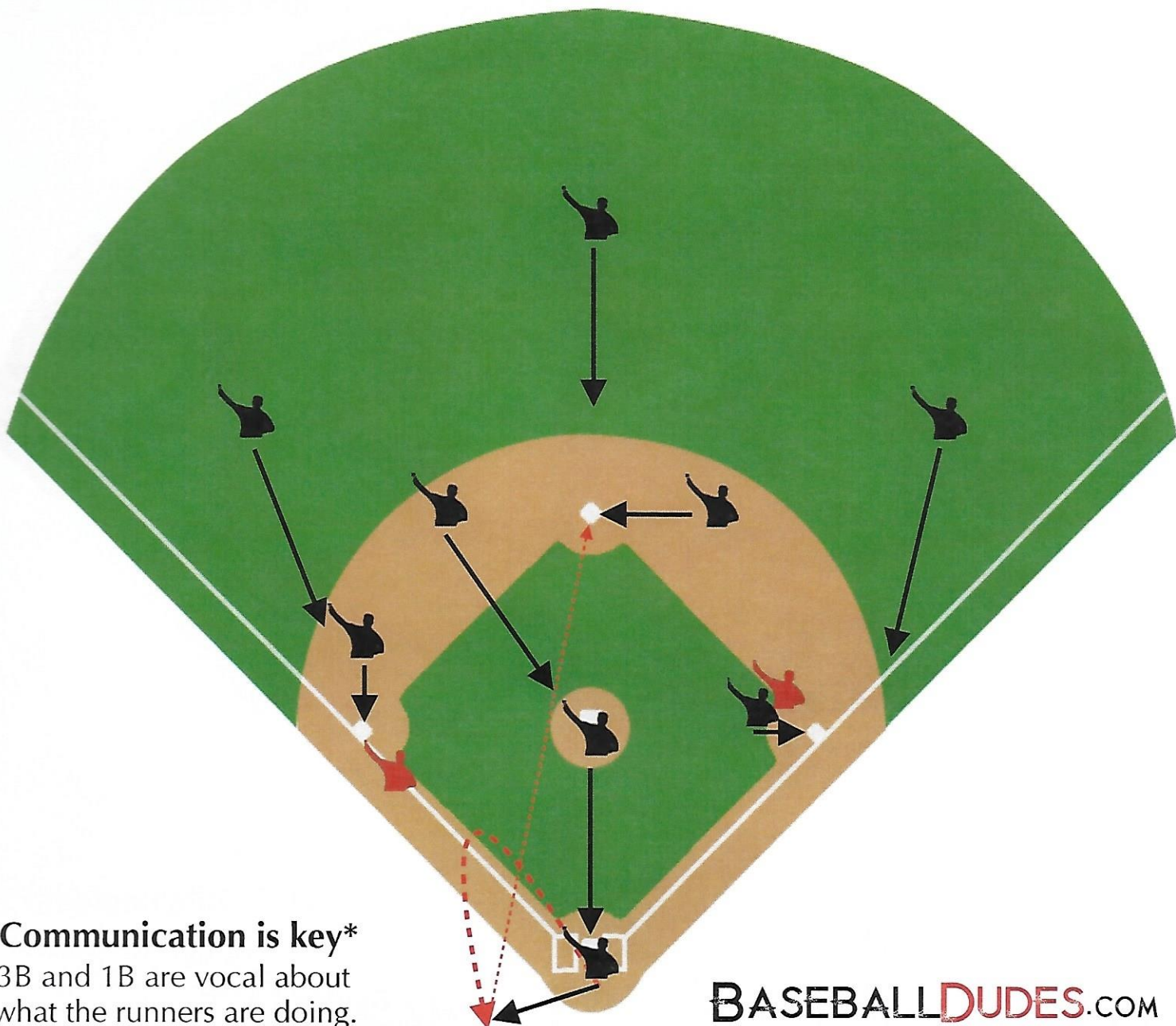
SS: Cut-off man if the ball is on the 3B side.

3B: Cover 3B.

LF: Back up 3B.

CF: Back up 2B.

RF: Back up 1B.



Situation #24

Foul Pop-Up Behind Home (1B Side)

Less Than 2 Outs, Runners on 1st and 3rd

Pitcher: Cover home plate.

Catcher: After catching the pop-up, be prepared to make a good hard throw to a middle infielder.

1B: Cover 1B.

2B: Cut-off man to 2B, if the ball is on the 1B side.

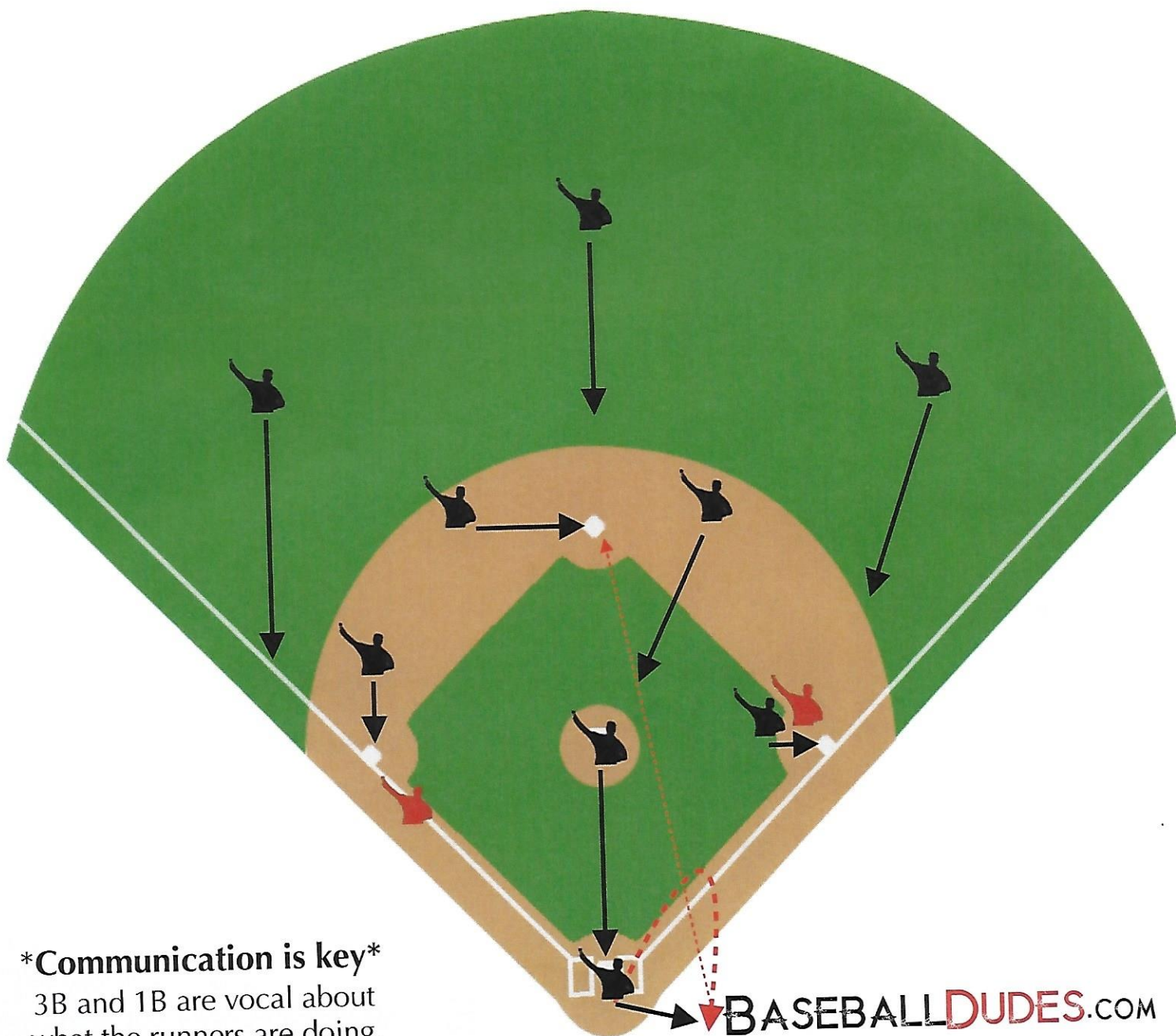
SS: Cover 2B if ball is on the 1B side.

3B: Cover 3B.

LF: Back up 3B.

CF: Back up 2B.

RF: Back up 1B.



Situation #25

Fly Out to LF

Less Than 2 Outs, Runners on 1st and 3rd

Pitcher: Back up home plate by going between home and 1st.

Catcher: Protect home plate. Be ready for throw. Give the runner a lane.

1B: Cover 1B. Be vocal about runner.

2B: Cover 2B. Be ready for possible throw from cut-off man.

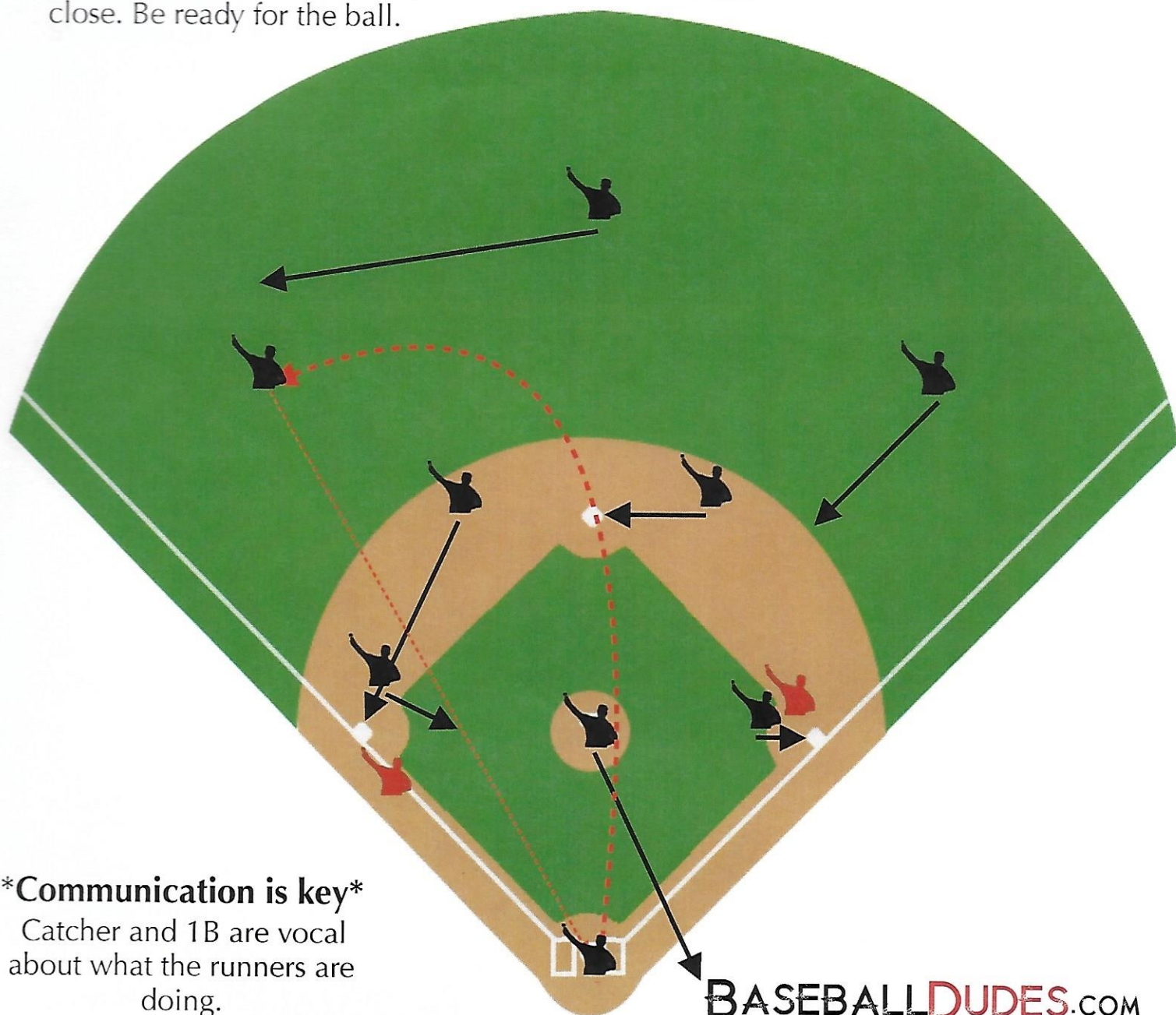
SS: Move to cover 3B to keep runner close. Be ready for the ball.

3B: Move into cut-off position lined up to home.

LF: Get behind the ball, make a good, hard, low throw through the cut-off man lined up towards home.

CF: Back up LF.

RF: Move towards back up position behind 2B.



Communication is key

Catcher and 1B are vocal about what the runners are doing.

Situation #26

Fly Out to CF

Less Than 2 Outs, Runners on 1st and 3rd

Pitcher: Back up home plate by going between home and 1st.

Catcher: Protect home plate. Be ready for throw. Give the runner a lane.

1B: Move into cut-off position between the mound and 2B.

2B: Move towards first base to keep the runner close.

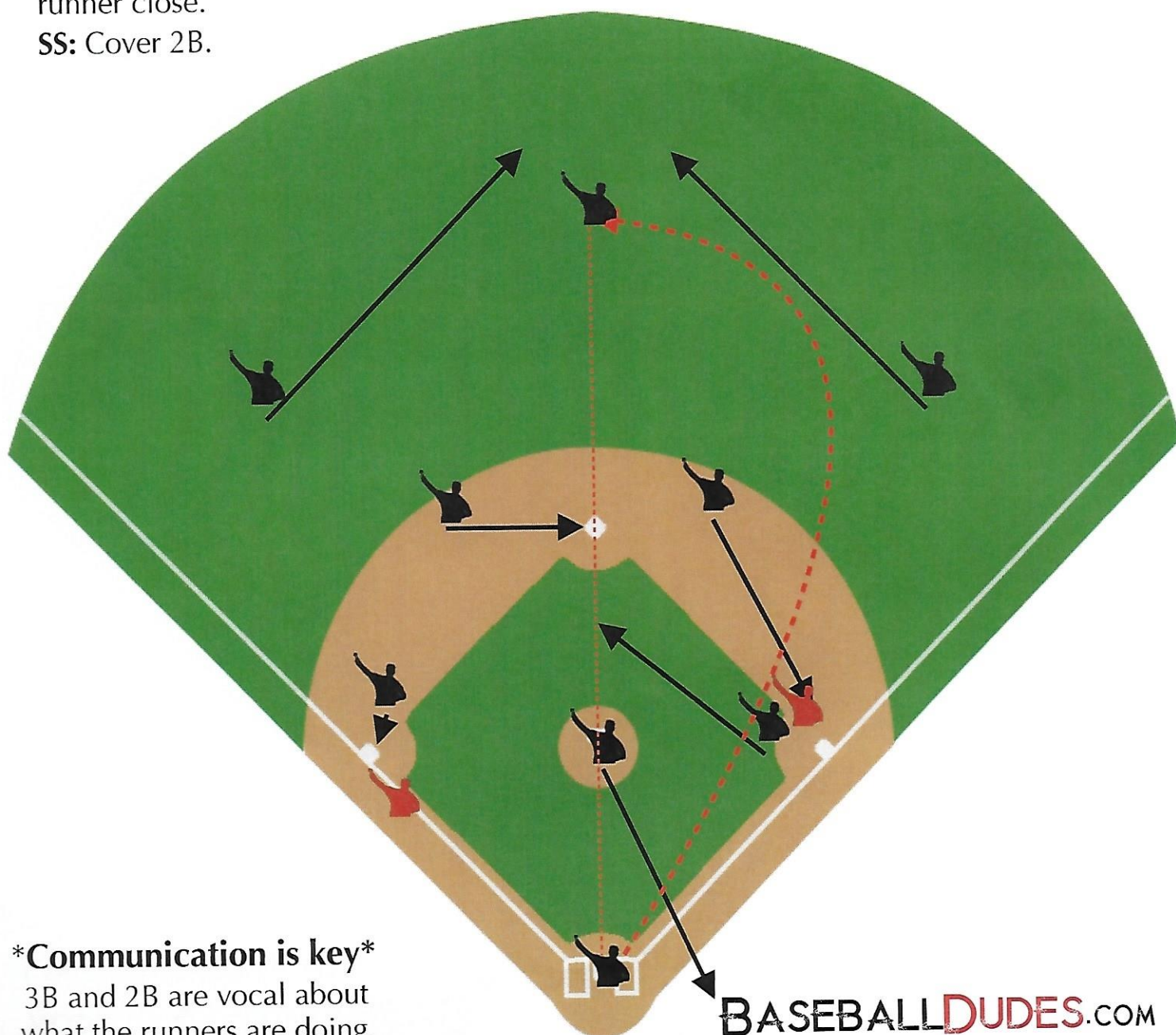
SS: Cover 2B.

3B: Cover 3B. Keep runner close. Be vocal if runner is going.

LF: Back up CF.

CF: Get behind the ball, make a good, hard, low throw through the cut-off man lined up towards home.

RF: Back up CF.



Communication is key

3B and 2B are vocal about what the runners are doing.

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Situation #27

Fly Out to RF

Less Than 2 Outs, Runners on 1st and 3rd

Pitcher: Back up home plate by going between home and 3rd.

Catcher: Protect home plate. Be ready for throw. Give the runner a lane.

1B: Move into cut-off position on the grass between 1B and the mound.

2B: Move towards first base to keep the runner close.

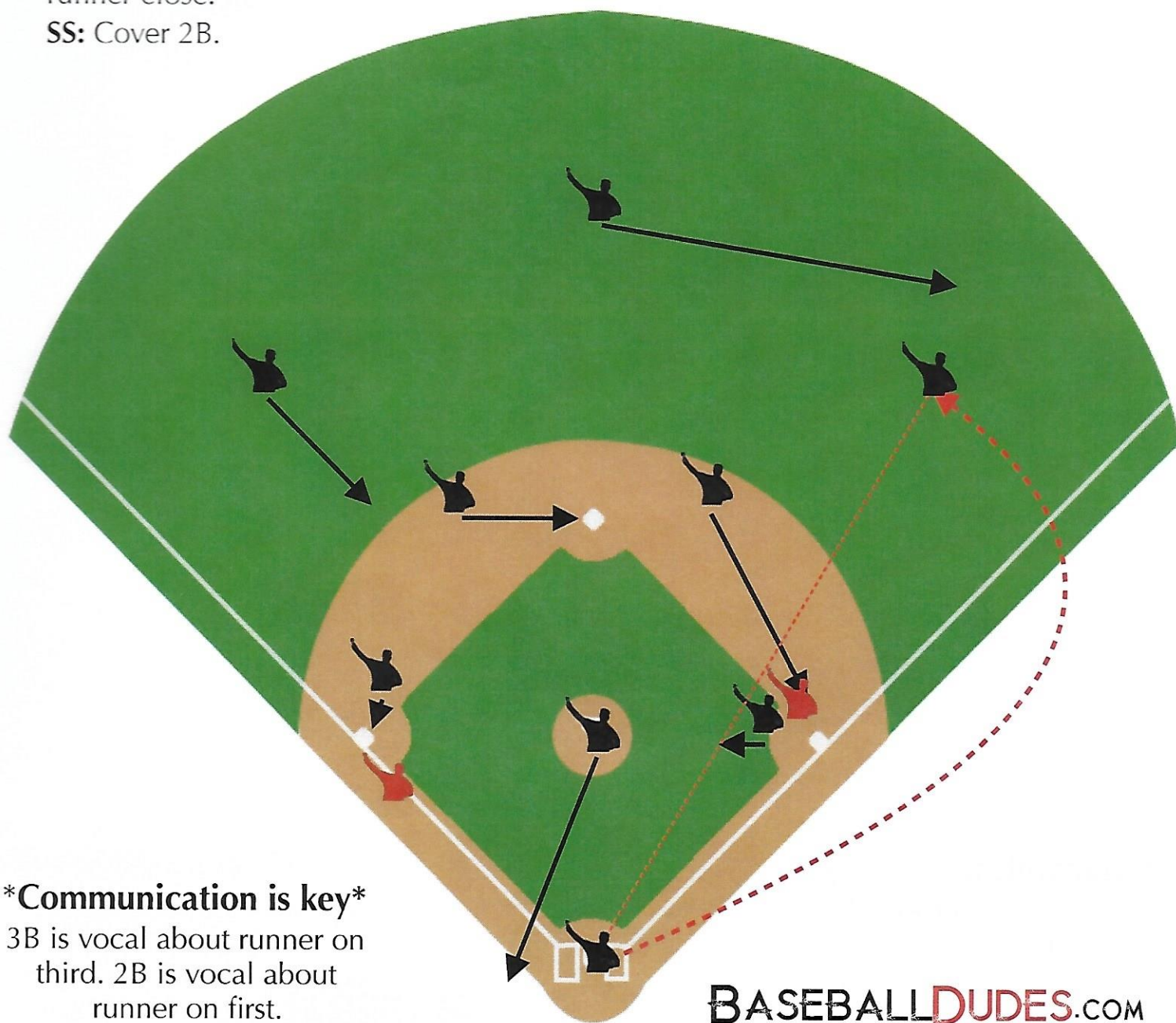
SS: Cover 2B.

3B: Cover 3B. Keep runner close.

LF: Move towards the infield for possible back up.

CF: Back up RF.

RF: Get behind the ball, make a good, hard, low throw through the cut-off man lined up towards home.



Situation #28

Shallow Fly Ball Down LF Line

Runner on 1st

Pitcher: Move towards 3B to cover. Be ready for possible play on runner trying to advance.

Catcher: Protect home plate.

1B: Watch runner on first and communicate his actions.

2B: Cover 2B and be ready for throw.

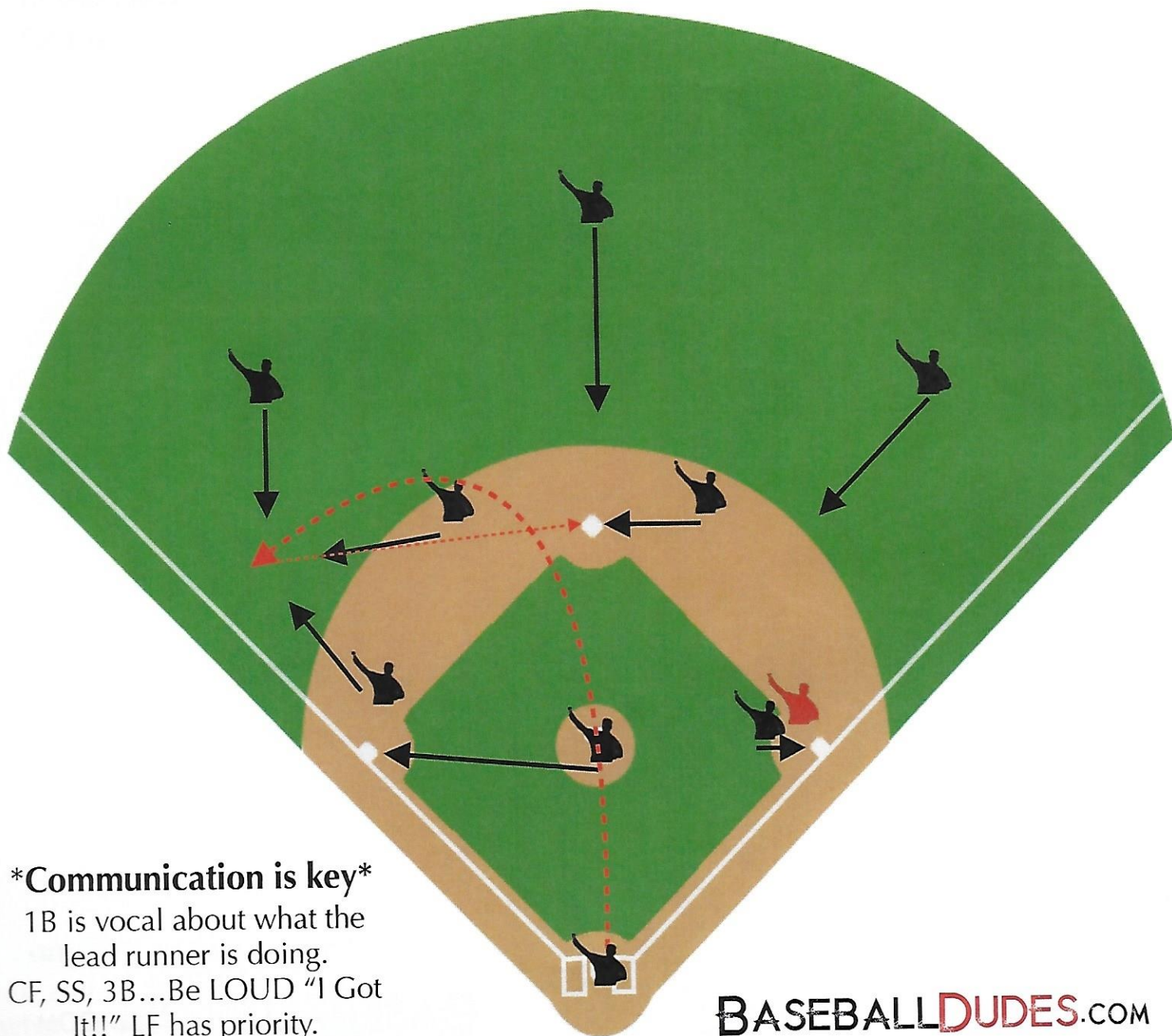
SS: Go after the ball and try to catch it.

3B: Go after the ball and try to catch it.

LF: Go after the ball and try to catch it.

CF: Move towards infield for possible back up.

RF: Move towards infield for possible back up.



Communication is key

1B is vocal about what the lead runner is doing.

CF, SS, 3B...Be LOUD "I Got It!!" LF has priority.

Situation #29

Shallow Fly Ball to CF

Runner on 1st

Pitcher: Move towards 2B to cover. Be ready for possible play on runner trying to advance.

Catcher: Protect home plate.

1B: Watch runner on first and communicate his actions.

2B: Go after the ball and try to catch it.

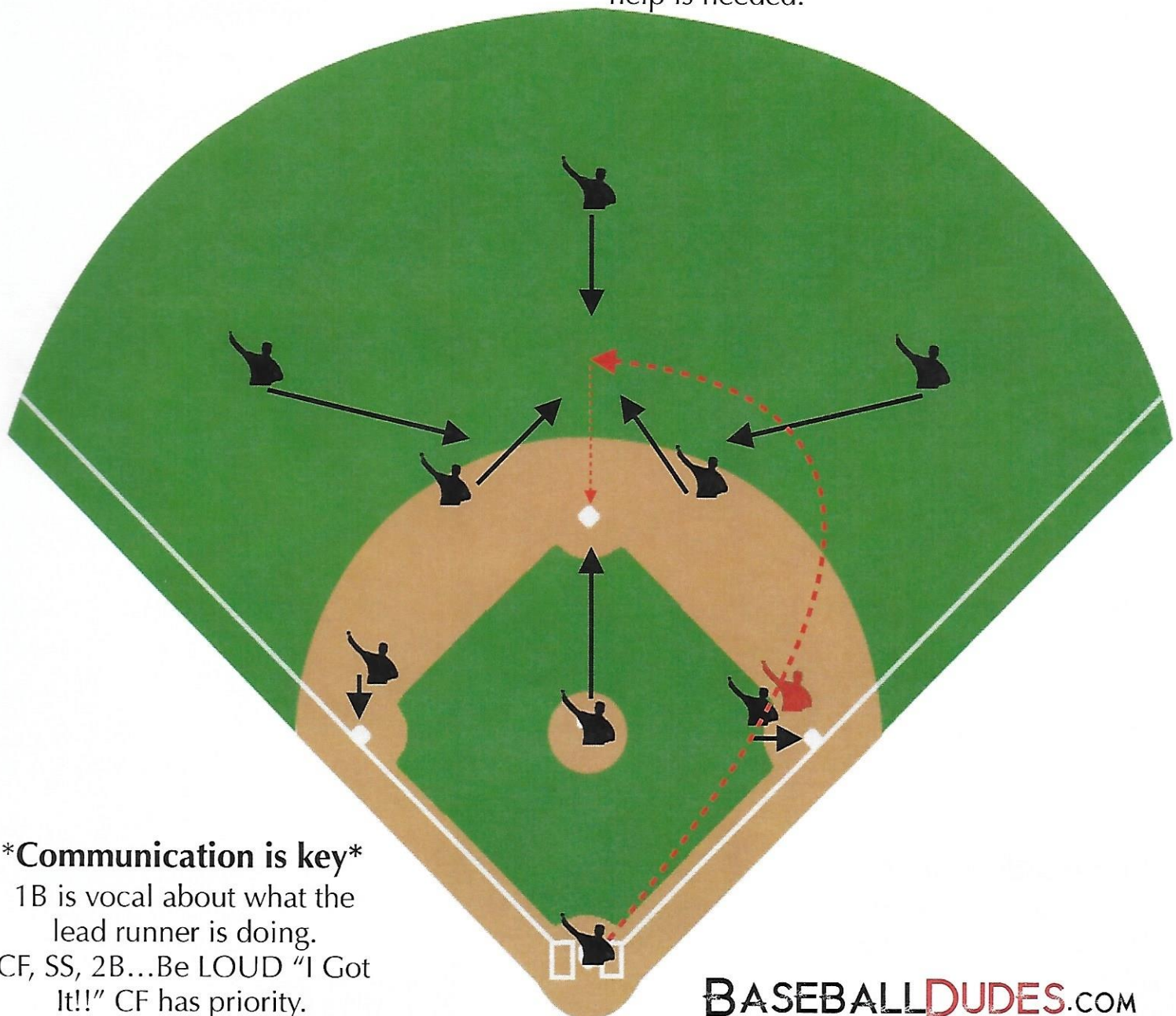
SS: Go after the ball and try to catch it.

3B: Cover bag, be ready for possible play.

LF: Move towards the infield in-case help is needed.

CF: Go after the ball and try to catch it.

RF: Move towards the infield in-case help is needed.



Communication is key

1B is vocal about what the lead runner is doing.

CF, SS, 2B...Be LOUD "I Got It!!" CF has priority.

Situation #30

Shallow Fly Ball Down RF Line

Runner on 1st

Pitcher: Move towards 1B to cover.
Watch runner on first and communicate his actions.

Catcher: Protect home plate.

1B: Go after the ball and try to catch it.

2B: Go after the ball and try to catch it.

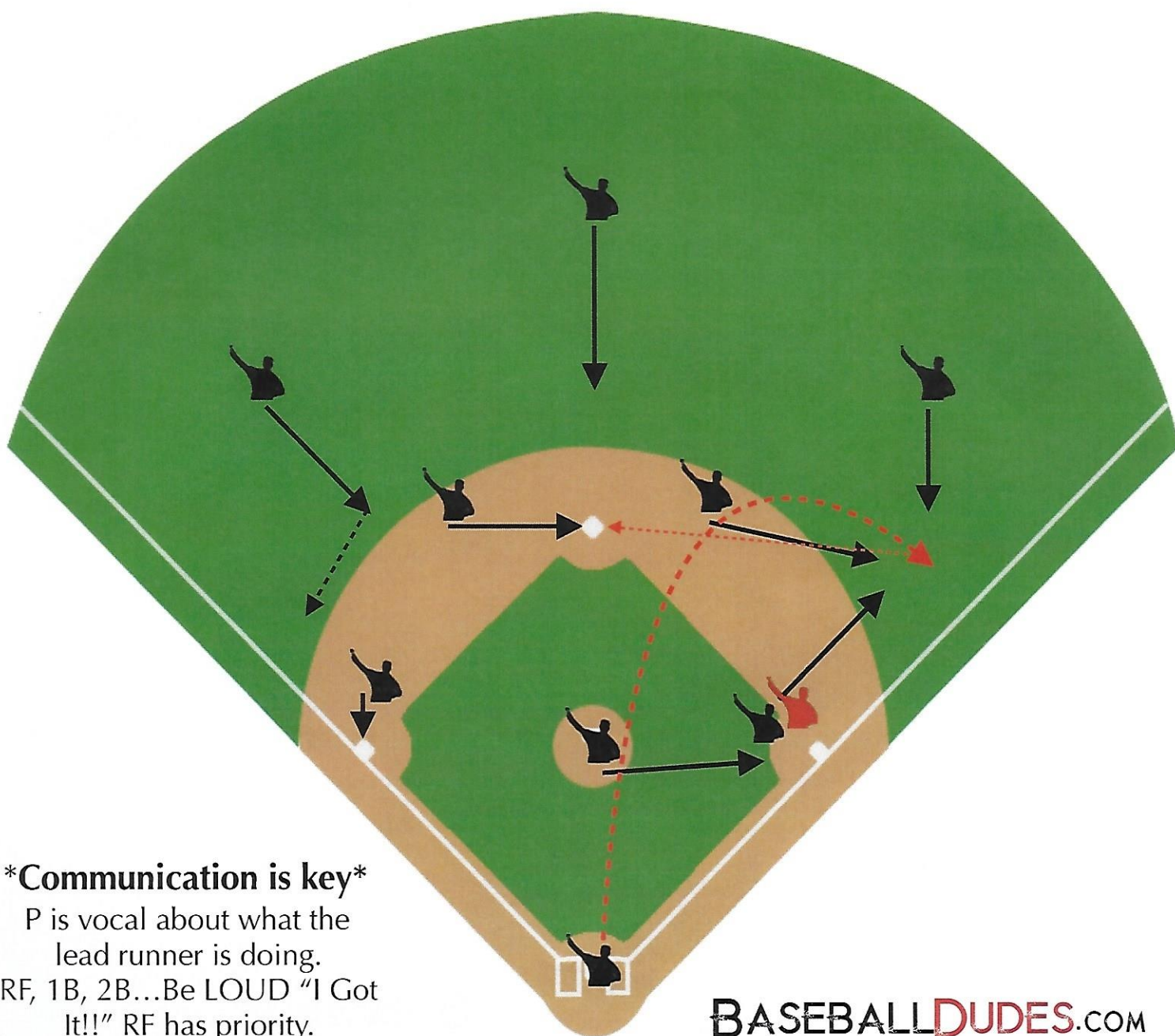
SS: Cover 2B. Be ready for possible play.

3B: Cover 3B. Be ready for possible play.

LF: Move towards SS position for possible back up. Be heads up to back up possible throw to 3B.

CF: Move towards infield incase help is needed.

RF: Go after the ball and try to catch it.



Communication is key

P is vocal about what the lead runner is doing.

RF, 1B, 2B...Be LOUD "I Got It!!" RF has priority.